

Price: The Three Lions  
Austria 8th 152; Belgium 3rd 140;  
Croatia 22nd 75; Czechoslovakia 8th 60;  
Denmark 9th 100; France 7th 160;  
Finland 10th 150; Germany 4th 80;  
Greece 11th 140; Ireland 12th 85;  
Italy 1st 275; Malta 28th 25;  
Netherlands 5th 145; Norway 13th 100;  
Portugal 14th 100; Spain 15th 100;  
Sweden 16th 100; Switzerland 5th 100;  
USSR 17th 100; Yugoslavia 18th 100.

No 64,381

# THE TIMES

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

45p

## After 17 years, Daley Thompson reaches end of the track



Running into trouble: Daley Thompson pulling up in pain, left, during the decathlon event at Crystal Palace; clutching at his leg and being helped off the track

BY STEVEN DOWNES  
THE athletics career of Daley Thompson came to an end halfway down the 100-metre straight at Crystal Palace, south London, yesterday, when the decathlon world record-holder pulled up injured before he had completed the first event of a competition hastily arranged to help him qualify for the Olympic games at Barcelona.

When Britain's athletics selectors named Thompson in their Olympic squad two weeks ago, it caused controversy because he had still to achieve the qualifying standard. After trying to achieve that in Norway last weekend, Thompson, 33, withdrew after four events because he was too far behind schedule.

His adviser, Frank Dick, Britain's chief coach, arranged the last-chance, two-day competition at Crystal Palace for Thompson to score the required 7,850 points before tonight's selection.

In front of a handful of spectators, Thompson's effort lasted barely five seconds as he fell to the track with a hamstring injury, ending an international career which had lasted 17 years.

Thompson, announcing his retirement, said: "What I always enjoyed about it more than anything else is that I managed to brighten up people's lives. I think I spread a little happiness."

Last bow, page 34

### TODAY IN THE TIMES

#### IN DEFENCE OF TABOOS



The Broadcasting Standards Council intends taking steps to protect the nation from violent male fantasies

*Life & Times*

Page 1

#### ON THE SIDE OF THE SICK



Animal lover Andrew Blake is in the front line of the battle for medical experiments

*Life & Times*

Page 5

#### CHAMPIONS OF THE DOG



Indulgent to a fault, the French are now the world's great dog-lovers

*Life & Times*

Page 4

## Cabinet slashes top pay increases to 4%

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PAY rises for 2,000 top civil servants, judges and generals were slashed to 4 per cent from a recommended average of 10 per cent yesterday in an unmistakable signal of the government's determination to hold down public spending.

In a move intended to encourage pay restraint throughout the public sector and private industry, the cabinet imposed the most stringent cut ever made in the recommendations of the independent Top Salaries Review Body. Previous awards have been staged, but this was the first time for six years.

Sir Robin Butler, the cabinet secretary, would have seen his pay rise from £104,750 to £130,000 had the recommendations been approved. Instead, he will get £108,940.

At the same time, the government has cut in half the proposed £8,500 increase in MPs' allowances, also proposed by the board. Their office allowances will go up by 9.8 per cent compared with the recommendations that could have given them as much as 40 per cent.

The cabinet decided yesterday morning that the rate of increase in average earnings is at its lowest level for 25 years, pay settlements in the private sector are running at 4 per cent and inflation is falling. It would be wholly inappropriate to grant increases of the order recommended. With the public sector deficit projected at £28 billion and the toughest public spending round for a decade under way, ministers knew they had to give a clear lead at the expense of senior public servants whose pay has slipped badly behind the private sector in the seven years since the last full review.

John Major said last night that many in the private and public sectors had had to take modest increases. Managers welcomed the announcement, saying that Mr Major had shown he was in tune with the feelings of the country. Roger Young, director general of the British In-

stitute of Management, said: "The government is to be congratulated for having the sense to realise that it would have been irresponsible to have adopted the recommendations of the review body."

Civil servants should be relieved that they have not been put in the same category as some private sector directors whose pay rises have been excessive."

The first division association, which represents most top civil servants, is to seek an urgent meeting with Mr Major. Elizabeth Symons, its general secretary, said she was deeply disappointed that the findings of the independent review body had been overturned. "The prime minister's reasons for refusing to implement his own review body's recommendations are transparently inadequate. The decision is damaging not only to the credibility of all public sector pay review bodies, but also to the civil service," she said.

Most senior civil servants had suffered a 3 per cent pay cut in real terms since 1985 against a 40 per cent rise for equivalent jobs in the private sector and it was not fair to rely on a sense of public duty, the association said. It added that of the 670 top civil servants covered by the review body, 500 earn between £48,000 and £57,000.

The government's decision may influence negotiations over a pay deal for nearly 300 of the country's top police officers. Negotiators representing the Association of Chief Police Officers and police authorities and the Home Office are due to meet this month to consider a deal that might give some chief constables and their deputies rises of up to 10 per cent.

Major's cut, page 8

## Charter condemns jobseekers' Aids test

A business code says that firms who refuse to hire people with HIV should change their policy, reports Jon Ashworth

A new business charter backed by high street names such as Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury and the Midland Bank yesterday called on firms which operate such discrimination, without naming any individually. Texaco, the petrochemicals giant, last night confirmed that for the past four years it has followed a policy of rejecting applicants who are found to be positive to the virus. The company refused to say how many had been rejected.

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Major's cut, page 8

## Bosnia makes plea for military help

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN HELSINKI

PRESIDENT Izetbegovic of Bosnia yesterday appealed to the 51 nations meeting at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe here to support his embattled country against Serb forces and also called for military intervention to destroy Serb weapons.

He also urged the United Nations to deploy troops along the Bosnian border with Serbia, which he accused of launching a new thrust into Bosnia, bringing in reinforcements and a huge number of weapons.

As the leaders met, America announced that its naval ships would return to the Adriatic and the French said they would dispatch 700 troops and a squadron of attack helicopters to Sarajevo at the request of the UN. In Sarajevo itself a Canadian soldier was seriously wounded in a mine explosion.

During yesterday's fighting in the city the UN forces briefly shot back with small arms when they came under fire.

President Izetbegovic said after a meeting yesterday morning with President Bush, that only military intervention could counter the Serbian aggression. The West should either collect all Serb arms or, if the aggressors refused to withdraw, destroy their weapons. He had made this plain to Mr Bush, and the president replied: "This has to be stopped."

President Bush, speaking on the opening day of the CSCE summit, said shipments of food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies must get through to Bosnia "no matter what it takes". He called for tough enforcement of sanctions on Serbia, and more pressure for a ceasefire.

"If our CSCE community is to have any real meaning in this new world, let us be of one mind about immediate aims," he said. "First, we should see that relief supplies get through, no matter what it takes. Second, we should

see to it that the UN sanctions are respected, no matter what it takes. Third, we should do all we can to prevent this conflict from spreading. And fourth, let us call with one voice for the guns to fall silent with a ceasefire on all fronts."

American officials made it clear that despite the Bosnian leader's plea for military help, America and its Western allies were only contemplating force to ensure humanitarian aid. They said the Bosnians wanted America to "treat this like Kuwait".

Mr Izetbegovic said that humanitarian aid was not enough. His country did not want to depend on charity and mercy. "We wish to work, and if there is no peace we cannot work. He spoke of widespread atrocities, and

Continued on page 18, col 5

Sarajevo fears, page 12

Why GI Joe says no, page 14

## Summer Sale for Music Lovers



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## Body Shop counter-attack wins back stores

BY MICHAEL HOPSNELL

ANITA Roddick's Body Shop regained control of six of its branches yesterday from a businesswoman who compared herself to God and the cosmetics chain to Satan. Pauline Rawle, 50, who held the franchise for the shops, found herself in the High Court after she joined a religious sect and made staff attend mystic violence courses run by the Victory Church.

The court ordered her to hand them back after they had fallen into a "deplorable condition". Mr Justice Pain said that the close relationship essential to the franchise contract between Mrs Rawle and the Body Shop to Satan. He

said that matters came to a head when Mrs Rawle dismissed more than 50 staff, alleging that they were disloyal, and closed her shops.

He granted Body Shop, which has issued a writ claiming £340,000 from Mrs Rawle in respect of products supplied, an injunction removing her from control of the six branches, in Maidstone, Bromley, Canterbury, Romford and Croydon.

"She has caused very considerable damage to the plaintiffs without any justification. I take the view that she should be stopped as soon as possible."

Mrs Rawle, who lives in a



Rawle: sacked staff and closed shops

Books, magazines, etc.	
Adults	16
Crossword	18
Letters	15
Obituaries	17
Weather	18
etc.	18
Acuaries exams	8
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Roddick: won back control of six stores

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## European Court decision on net agreement hailed by big chains

# Hague ruling puts book price fixing in doubt

BY SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A RULING made yesterday by the European Court of Justice against the net book agreement was hailed as the death knell for the system that has fixed the prices of 75 per cent of all books sold in Britain for the past 35 years.

Publishers said the decision would not alter their support for the agreement until they had a full legal interpretation. They believe the ruling will apply only to operation of the agreement across European boundaries, especially between Britain and Ireland.

The European Court of First Instance in The Hague, which deals with competition cases, upheld a ruling against the agreement made by Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner. It rejected an appeal by the Publishers' Association against that ruling and several arguments advanced by the association in support of the agreement.

The agreement was drawn up in 1957 with the aim of protecting small booksellers from the effects of discounting by larger retailers and to encourage the publication of a wider range of books.

Terry Maher, chairman of Penton Books, who has waged a four-year campaign against the agreement, said the decision vindicated opponents of the agreement. "Effectively, there is no net book agreement any more," he said. "The Reed publishing group left the agreement last year but other publishers have been less courageous so far. Now they are off the hook."

He is to try to lift an injunction preventing him selling at discount four books covered by the agreement in the Penton chains of Dillons, Hatchards and Claude Gill.

But Eddie Bell, executive chairman of HarperCollins, said: "This agreement is unbelievably resilient and our customers have told us to continue to support it up to now. I see no reason for withdrawing support." Simon Master, group deputy chairman of Random House, said: "The publishers who have been ambivalent about the agreement have maintained it because the vast majority of their customers — the booksellers — want them to and nothing in this decision need change that position."

Lawyers are still studying the judgment but one said:

"The NBA is not in tatters as a result of this, but it's had a bad blow. The important thing is how the Office of Fair Trading will respond, and whether it will change its previous decision that the NBA was not against the public interest."

The chief effect of the European decision will be on the Irish book trade, which takes 80 per cent of its stock from British publishers and operates within the agreement. The Irish prime minister submitted evidence to the court in support of the agreement.

Gemma Barry, Irish chairman of the UK and Irish Booksellers' Association, said: "We are extremely disappointed. We believed the agreement was in the interests of the book trade in general."

□ Price fixing has been a feature of the British book trade since it was decided in 1900 that some order needed to be introduced after a discount war in the 1890s had forced several booksellers and publishers out of business.

The existing net book agreement, whereby publishers and booksellers concur on a minimum, or net, price for a book, was devised in response to the 1956 Restrictive Practices Act. The purpose was to protect small booksellers and to ensure a wider range of books not in the bestseller range.

In 1962, the Restrictive Practices Court ruled the agreement was not against the public interest, and it remains a surviving example of resale price maintenance in Britain, operating on 80 per cent of 40,000 hardbacks published each year.

In December 1988, the European Commission ruled that the agreement infringed the Treaty of Rome because it would affect inter-state trade.

But the ruling was suspended because of the Publishers' Association's appeal, which the court of first instance has now dismissed.

Peter Phelan, the Publishers' Association's consultant on the net book agreement, said the decision would have no influence on the home market and that the chief effect would be in Ireland, which has operated the British agreement. The court has decided that that practice of "de-nationalising" its titles.

Dillons says it is going well.

But yesterday most customers were heading for the more easily accessible bargains of the book sale at the far side of the shop.

There, titles, most of them damaged or offered for the remainder list, were selling for as little as a third of their original price, part of a nationwide annual exercise by



Bagging a bargain: a browser checks the shelves yesterday

## Saletime browsers buy, but only if the price is right

The name of the book discount game is getting bodies into the shop, reports Louise Hidalgo

THURSDAY lunchtime at Dillons' largest London branch. Browsers and bargain-hunters jostle for elbow-space among the shelves. Few throw more than a cursory glance at the tables by the entrance bearing a selection of 40 paperback titles offered with the incentive buy three, get one free.

It is a summer promotion which, while not breaking the net book agreement, is possible only because the Reed publishing group, the co-sponsors, has withdrawn from the agreement and "de-nationalised" its titles.

Dillons says it is going well. But yesterday most customers were heading for the more easily accessible bargains of the book sale at the far side of the shop.

There, titles, most of them damaged or offered for the remainder list, were selling for as little as a third of their original price, part of a nationwide annual exercise by

publishers and 300 booksellers to shift slow-moving stock. Raymond Mace, a research scientist at University College near by, admits to being a regular browser but an infrequent buyer. "Books are far too expensive for me. I like the atmosphere but not the prices." He had come to buy but only if a sale item caught his eye.

Further along the shelves, Christopher Sawyer, 20, a medical student, was leafing through the modern fiction in the sale. "I buy two or three books a week but usually only from second-hand bookshops. Even Oxford's getting more expensive." He supposes an end to "price-fixing."

The keystone of promotions is getting people into the store," Frank Brazier, Dillons managing director, said. "If a person buys £5-worth of discounted book, on average they spend another £20 in the store."

## A baffled court finds arguments irrelevant

FROM TOM WALKER  
IN BRUSSELS

IN making its ruling against the net book agreement, the European Court of First Instance rejected several arguments put forward by the Publishers' Association and said it found the publishers' opposition to discounting the price of books unconvincing.

It described as "irrelevant" the association's claim that the agreement would collapse if it were abolished in Ireland. "Under Article 85 of the Treaty, a price maintenance system that restricts competition within the common market cannot qualify for exemption on the ground that it must continue to operate in order to produce beneficial effects inside a national market," it said.

The court also ruled as "irrelevant" the claim that in practice it is not possible for publishers individually to give notice of their conditions of sale to each bookseller. "The practical convenience afforded by a common system of giving notice may not be allowed to justify the establishment of a common system of net prices," it said. It pointed out that the European Commission had already suggested a way out of any such administrative problems: "Publishers could refer to standard conditions of sale ... they would adapt them to their commercial interests and to their own individual situation," the court advised.

It also rejected the argument that booksellers would not be able to cope with the need to stock books of varying prices from a range of different publishers. Bookshops that had already defied the agreement had "rightly pointed out the modern administrative infrastructure (computerisation and so forth) which stock-holding booksellers have today, which alleviates considerably their burden of work."

The argument that the agreement bred confidence between booksellers because they knew they were not undercutting each other was "unconvincing", it said.

"On the assumption that a collective system of fixed prices may subjectively reinforce booksellers' confidence, this circumstance is not capable on its own of justifying an agreement which, by imposing uniform selling prices for books, excessively restricts the free play of competition in the common market."

Throughout the judgment the court appeared to be baffled by the Publishers' Association's total rejection of attempts to discount books.

## Naval errors blamed for Antares sinking

A succession of errors on board the nuclear submarine HMS *Trenchant* led to the sinking of the trawler *Antares* with the loss of its four-man crew, an official report by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch said yesterday. The immediate cause of the sinking was the "partial breakdown in the watchkeeping structure and standards" on board the submarine, where the command team had "no clear appreciation" of the position of the trawler.

A manoeuvre by the submarine's command team to establish the range of the *Antares* would have eliminated the risk of a collision in the Firth of Clyde in November 1990. The initial error was compounded, the report said, by inadequate attempts to contact other fishing vessels after the collision, which led to an eight-and-a-half-hour delay in mounting a search and rescue operation. The submarine left the scene and resumed exercises after dragging the fishing vessel down without any "appreciation of the reality of the situation". The report said that no blame for the accident could be attached to the *Antares*.

## Gulf pilot dies in crash

Flight Lieutenant James Henderson, a Gulf war veteran, was killed yesterday when his Buccaneer jet crashed into the North Sea. His navigator was also presumed dead since neither managed to eject before the aircraft hit the water. Flt Lt Henderson, 28, flew Buccaneers in the Gulf. The maritime strike aircraft, which has a good safety record, was used during the war to help Tornado and Jaguar bombers drop their bombs with greater accuracy. The Buccaneer Flt Lt Henderson was flying yesterday was part of a formation of four. The aircraft, which was from 208 Squadron based at Lossiemouth, Grampian, came down 38 miles east of Leuchars in Fife. The pilot's body was found floating in the water. A search is continuing for the navigator. A board of enquiry has been set up.

## BP cuts petrol price

BP will cut 4.5p from the price of a gallon of four-star petrol from today. Other oil companies are expected to follow by the weekend. Prices have been cut twice in ten days after reaching a high point of 24.5p for a gallon of four-star. BP's maximum forecast price will be 23.6p a gallon (£1.9p a litre) for four-star leaded, 21.6p for unleaded (47.2p) and 22.5p (49.6p) for high octane unleaded. The company said that falling prices on world spot markets for oil and bulk petrol had allowed it to cut pump prices. It will send leaflets to 1,600 filling stations this week giving details of how the price of a gallon is made up, in an attempt to ease consumers' concerns of profiteering by oil companies.

## Holiday trust in peril

The Air Travel Trust, set up 17 years ago to rescue holidaymakers who find themselves stranded when travel firms collapse, could run out of cash if one more operator goes out of business. The collapse of 17 businesses has left only £5 million in reserves, the lowest since the trust was established in 1975, its annual report disclosed yesterday. The failure of Sungate Travel and Zenith Holidays in the past two months is expected further deplete the fund, administered by the Civil Aviation Authority, by £1.5 million. The trust wants the government to allow the travel industry to impose a levy on holiday packages to replenish its coffers. It says: "It is possible that either a single failure of a relatively small company in the peak season or a number of small failures at the end of the season could exhaust the fund's assets."

## Boat chases record



Four men left Ramsgate, Kent, in a powerboat yesterday afternoon hoping to set a record for circumnavigating Britain. They expect their 50ft boat *Drambuie Tantalus*, which is equipped with four computer-controlled 650hp diesel engines, to complete the 1,568-mile journey in less than 48 hours — slicing a third off the record. They will travel clockwise and stop only to refuel at Plymouth, Holyhead, Kyle of Lochalsh, Aberdeen and Hartlepool.

## Hospitals criticised

Teaching medical students to perform vaginal examinations is unnecessary for the students, uncomfortable for the women and embarrassing for both and should be abandoned, doctors say. Most doctors never need the training and those that do can learn after qualifying. Embarrassment among sexually inexperienced young students and worries about obtaining consent are leading to a poor standard of competence. Dr Linda Cardozo of King's College Hospital, London, an undergraduate examiner, says in the *British Medical Journal*: "I could take no pride in watching fumbling medical students desperately trying to impress on an examiner that they knew what they were doing when clearly they had rarely, if ever, inserted a vaginal specimen (inspection tube) during their training."

## Aldington to pay costs

Lord Aldington failed yesterday in his High Court attempt to recover a possible £30,000 of legal costs in his long-running dispute with Count Nikolai Tolstoy. Mr Justice Morris refused to grant a costs order in respect of a two-day court hearing in May, because Lord Aldington's solicitors had already agreed to pay his bill. At the May hearing, Count Tolstoy, who still owes Lord Aldington more than £2 million in damages and costs after a libel trial in 1989, had sought unsuccessfully to have his self-imposed bankruptcy annulled on the ground that his debt had been cancelled. At the 1989 trial, Lord Aldington was awarded £1.5 million damages for being libelled by accusations that he handed over thousands of Cossacks and Yugoslavs to face torture and death by communist forces at the end of the second world war.

## House prices edge up

House prices rose 0.7 per cent last month, the Halifax building society said. The rise, it added, could be a sign that prices were stabilising. "Further recovery remains dependent on improvement in the economy and in employment prospects," a spokesman said. "With some increase in house sales over the next few months, house prices should move on to a gently rising trend during 1993." Despite the slight rise, prices are still 8.10 per cent lower than a year ago although in the North the fall is nearer to 3 per cent. Only in Scotland are prices still slightly higher than this time last year.

## Tobacco actions due

Lawyers co-ordinating claims against tobacco companies by victims of smoking are considering legal action against the government for failing to give adequate warnings on the links between smoking and lung cancer. Two law firms specialising in personal-injury claims have identified Liverpool and London's East End as pilot areas and are compiling evidence for a series of test cases after the recent Supreme Court ruling in the United States that health warnings on cigarette packets do not confer immunity from lawsuits. They believe that if the government is not sued as part of any legal action, the tobacco companies will try to spread liability and transfer to the government some of the blame for the smoking-related injuries.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

## Charity man jailed over witchdoctor's diamonds

BY RICHARD DUCE

A CHARITY worker faces six years in a West African jail unless he can find nearly £250,000 after he was convicted by a Gambian court of stealing two diamonds from a witchdoctor.

Phil McLean, 39, was jailed for two years, with an alternative fine of £333, on condition that he repays the cost of the diamonds, valued at £234,000. If he fails to pay he faces a further four years in prison. His girl friend, Lyn Cummins, of Eastleigh, Hampshire, said yesterday that the verdict was a "complete and utter sham".

Mr McLean, from Weymouth, Dorset, says that he was tricked into bringing two "diamonds" to Britain to have them valued for Prince Bowa, a tribal warlord whom he and Miss Cummins met on a charity trip to The Gambia.

Mr McLean returned around Christmas last year to report that the stones were topaz and was arrested. After five days in a police cell, allegedly without food or drink, he was charged with theft.

Last night Stephen Milligan, Tory MP for Eastleigh, who has taken up Mr McLean's case with the Foreign Office, said: "This is an outrageous miscarriage of justice. From information I have received it seems likely that Mr McLean has been completely framed. I will be doing everything I can to ensure that he mounts an effective appeal."

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We have been in close contact with Mr McLean but any appeal is a matter for him and his lawyers."

Mr McLean and Miss Cummins travelled to The Gambia last year to deliver spectacles for the British Overseas Optical Mission. They bought a hotel called Verdi's in Talinding and thought of settling down there.

Miss Cummins said: "At first he was asked if we would be interested in buying some diamonds, but we said no. Phil was then asked if he would mind taking two stones back to Britain. Since then our lives have been a nightmare."

A Gambian magistrate, J.D. Amarie, sitting at a court in Kanifing, said that Mr McLean had admitted to police that he sold the diamonds and pretended to the owner that they were topaz stones.

Mr McLean spent the period waiting for the trial verdict in hiding after falling sick, apparently after being threatened with a voodoo curse. According to Miss Cummins he was beaten and intimidated in Talinding by followers of Prince Bowa.

Miss Cummins believes that Mr McLean was the victim of a "sting" orchestrated by the witchdoctor, who spends all his time chanting in the village and dancing round cow horns."

She said: "He will never survive in jail. He is a sick man and conditions in prisons out there are unimaginably bad. I am virtually bankrupt and scared stiff of going back to The Gambia, although I am desperate to help him."

The witchdoctors are very powerful figures and run the place out of fear. The last time I went out there I had to go into hiding because they were after me."

## 'Dirty hands' put girls off engineering

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE most famous engineer in the country is Kevin Webster, the car mechanic in Coronation Street, according to a survey of Nottinghamshire teenagers.

The survey presents an all-too-accurate view of the image of engineering in Britain, said Bryan Button, dean of engineering at Nottingham Polytechnic, where the survey was organised. "It is all very disappointing," he said. "While Kevin may be a valuable member of the engineering fraternity, he is not a true engineer."

The study, based on interviews with more than 150 pupils aged 14, shows "a lack of understanding of what engineering is about", Professor Button said. When the teenagers were given a list of jobs, such as installing telephone cables, repairing cars, designing computer software, or fixing clocks, and asked which were done by engineers, they were unable to come up with the right answers.

"They could not distinguish between engineers and mechanics," he said.

When asked what characteristics they associated with engineering, they chose dirty hands or "men's work" rather than advanced technology or the ability to make things. The prejudice against engineering is one reason so few girls are attracted to the profession, the study concludes.

Another may be active discouragement from teachers. One physics teacher said: "Girls can't do electronics." When one female pupil questioned a science teacher, she was told not to be a moaning minnie; a boy asking the same questions was given 15 minutes of the teacher's time.

"These misperceptions of engineering are shared by a lot of career advisers," Professor Button said.

The study was part of a campaign to give girls a flavour of what engineering is so that they can make informed career choices.

The trial continues today.

## STOP PRESS FRANCE - WITH THE TIMES AND LBC

Each week throughout the summer, *The Times* and LBC will bring you news of last minute bargains for travellers to France, and the latest information on bookings, flights, traffic delays and holiday ideas.

By Lucy Rock  
All roads are now clear of lorry drivers' barricades. However, the AA warns travellers to expect heavy traffic, especially on routes to the South, South-West and West coast, because school holidays have started and normal restrictions on lorries travelling at the weekend have been lifted to ease the backlog of deliveries. They are also lifted on Tuesday, Bastille Day.

Striking doctors have set up a barricade near Bordeaux. Today, the Tour de France heads from Roubaix, near Lille, into Belgium.

FLIGHTS  
British Midland has seats on all flights to France over the next week. Air UK has seats outbound and inbound over the weekend between

when six people share a tent. Sealink Stena has short-break Rail & Sail trips from London to Paris for £55.

**RAILWAYS**  
SNCF motorail trains have space on all routes from Boulogne this weekend. The trains have sleeping accommodation only, no seats.

**FERRIES**  
P&O has limited space from Portsmouth to Cherbourg over the weekend and recommends reservations. Brittany Ferries has limited space on most sailings next week.

**RAIL**  
The franc has strengthened against the pound and Travelodge advises changing money early. Exchange rates are between 9.27 and 9.31 when buying and 10.14 and 10.18 when selling.

Travel writer Willy Newlands will be interviewed by Angela Rippon on LBC NEWSTALK'S *Drivetime* programme on Thursday July 16, at 6.50pm.

**OFFERS**  
*The Times* Passport to France L&T section, page 4



Unrestrained: a purple taffeta dress with bouffant skirt and layered flounces, left, and a chocolate and gold check wool suit with pleated skirt. Both are vigorous Marc Bohan designs that will help to rejuvenate the staid image of the Hartnell fashion house

## HOME NEWS 3

### Hartnell revived in a blaze of scarlet

BY LIZ SMITH  
FASHION EDITOR

DAZZLING red suits by Marc Bohan, commissioned for the hostesses in the Monaco pavilion at Seville Expo, proved to be simply the warm-up for the explosion of red in his latest collection for Hartnell.

The designer, who headed Dior in Paris for more than three decades and moved to Hartnell in London two years ago to salvage its fading image, did his utmost to brighten the dowager house of British couture yesterday with a collection of glamorous outfits in shades of red.

The customary restraint of his designs, usually in navy and grey check suitings, was relinquished in favour of every shade of red from scarlet cashmere and salmon pink tweed for top coats and slinky long-skirted suits to purple satin and vermilion taffeta for night.

It was hoped that M. Bohan's rejuvenation of the couture house's fashion image a decade after Sir Norman Hartnell's death in 1979 might have attracted the new generation of British royals. But the Princess of Wales has yet to place an order and, in spite of designing spectacular dresses for a clutch of high society brides, he was not chosen by Lady Helen Windsor, this month's royal bride.

## Runners seen after stabbing

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

TWO women were seen by a passing doctor as they ran from the home of Alison Shaughnessy at the time she was stabbed to death. The Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Dr Michael Unsworth-White, who was cycling past, told the jury that something about them had "jarred".

"My impression was that they were going running, but one of them was carrying a bag. Clearly you don't carry a bag if you are going running round the block. It was a bulky bag." He thought they were taking clothes to the laundry, but the laundry was in the opposite direction.

Dr Unsworth-White said the two were in their early twenties or late teens. They had blonde hair. He put their height at 5ft 4in to 5ft 6in.

Michelle Taylor, aged 21, Mrs Shaughnessy's rival in love, and her sister Lisa, 18, from Kemble Road, Forest Hill, south London, deny murdering Mrs Shaughnessy, 21, as she arrived home from work at her flat in Battersea, south London. The sisters claim they were at a friend's home at the time she was stabbed 54 times on June 3 last year.

The doctor said he had returned with police and pointed out the house from which the runners emerged. It was 41 Vardens Road, where Alison lived with her husband John. He has admitted a pre-marital affair with Michelle Taylor.

The trial continues today.

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THE FINANCIAL TIMES, 30TH MAY 1992.

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AUTOCAR & MOTOR, 20TH MAY 1992.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

## Press on probation as enquiry begins into self-regulation

By MELINDA WITSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE government extended its probation period for the press by at least another six months yesterday by appointing Sir David Calcutt, QC, to carry out an independent assessment of the effectiveness of newspaper self-regulation.

Sir David, chairman of the government's original investigation of press standards and conduct in 1990, is to consider whether present arrangements for self-regulation should be modified or be made statutory. He will also look at whether any further measures are needed to deal with press intrusions into personal privacy.

David Mellor, the national heritage secretary, had been expected to allow newspapers to escape further scrutiny until newspaper revelations about the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales last month provoked a public outcry and led the Press Complaints Commission to rebuke certain newspapers for "prurient" and "obnoxious" reporting.

Mr Mellor told the press in 1990 that it was "drinking in the last chance saloon". Just one week before the serialisation by *The Sunday Times* of the Andrew Morton book *Diana: Her True Story*, the commission was confident that the threat of direct government intervention had receded, citing as evidence in its annual report a decline in the number of complaints about press conduct and coverage and a willingness among editors not to repeat past errors.

### Whitehall lawyers fear cuts

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 200 lawyers in the government legal service stand to lose their jobs if proposals to contract out sections of the civil service go ahead, the lawyers' union has said.

The First Division Association, which represents more than 90 per cent of government lawyers, says government plans to contract out a quarter of civil service jobs could mean the privatising of prosecution work on such matters as health and safety and false social security claims, costing 225 jobs.

Loss of work would be a blow to the recruiting power of the government. Lawyers in the service accept far lower pay than private-sector colleagues. The trade-off is greater diversity, with legal work coming from a range of government departments.

In an article in today's *Solicitors' Journal*, Robin Dasey, assistant secretary-general of the association, says the areas of work most at risk are "low-level prosecutions, including social security claims, VAT and conveyancing of government estates".

### What a European loves to hate

By JOE JOSEPH

PROSPECTS for harmony within the European Community are at risk from millions of Europeans who cannot even bear to speak to the people next door, let alone get chummy with the folk they might meet in neighbouring countries.

If you are the sort of person who immediately invites your new neighbours round for an introductory drink, it is probably worth steering clear of Portugal, a new survey of 14 European countries shows. Half of all Portuguese turn their noses up if homosexuals move in next door and 19 per cent do not like Jews.

Britain ranks as the fifth least tolerant nation, after Portugal, Germany, Italy, and Belgium. The survey, carried out by the snappily titled European Value Systems Study Group and published in *The European*, finds Denmark to be the most tolerant. Perhaps Carlsberg dulls their anger with neighbourly faults.

Those who have always had doubts about statisticians will not have their faith restored by the report's discovery that France is Europe's second most tolerant country. So tolerant, in fact, that the French find

or perhaps indefinitely." he said. "All the doubt has arisen because of the last couple of months of royal stories, which have stirred up the controversy again. But apart from the royal story, the tabloids have been very mindful of the code of practice we agreed, and I hope that when David Calcutt examines all these stories in detail he will conclude the same thing."

Mr Preston said he thought the announcement would be followed by a great deal of thoughtfulness on the part of the press. He said that Sir David's original report had been an interesting and balanced document and he was sure the follow-up would be equally balanced.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, who chaired the Press Council, the commission's predecessor, said that the new enquiry was sensible but it was too early to judge whether the press was behaving better or worse under the commission.



Bearing up: Raymond Seitz, the US ambassador, and his wife Caroline part with a favourite soft toy at Stratford-upon-Avon's Teddy Bear Museum yesterday

## Brother sacked from Longleat job

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE new regime that runs the flocks of Longleat has sacrificed its first lamb. Lord Christopher Thynne, younger brother of the seventh Marquess of Bath, has been dismissed from his post as comptroller of the family's home and estate in Wiltshire.

Lord Bath, 60, who succeeded to the title on his father's death last week, was absent from Wednesday's meeting of Longleat trustees which removed his brother from day-to-day running of the estate in favour of Tim Moore, Lord Bath's personal agent. Lord Christopher may also lose his estate cottage.

In a terse statement yesterday, Mr Moore confirmed that the late Lord Bath's executors had asked him to take over the running of the estate and that Lord Christopher was no longer comptroller.

Lord Christopher, 57, admitted yesterday that he had "more or less got the no" (assumed to be the local vernacular for a sacking) but did not yet know if and when he would be evicted. In a recent interview, he predicted that he would be out on his ear when his elder brother, Alexander, succeeded to the mar-

quisate. Nonetheless, he was said by Longleat staff to be shattered after being summoned from his office to the trustees' meeting.

Lord Bath declined yesterday to discuss his brother's fate. "The trustees had been negotiating with Christopher and the important thing is that he should be happy with the negotiations. It is not for me to start negotiating."

Their father, who died of cancer aged 87, seemed to hold the view that the Bath children were a bit of a shower. Two years ago, he remarked, with obvious sadness: "When I go, Christopher will be sacked. Alexander won't have him working for him." Lord Christopher stayed at home running the estate while his brother spent much of each year in St Tropez painting, writing an autobiography and being entertained by a succession of "wifelies".

Last week, Lord Bath said his younger brother had accused him of "holidaying" on the French Riviera while their father was dying. "I am never on holiday," he retorted angrily. "When I am in St Tropez, I work terribly hard."

### Judge tells councils to carry on

By DAVID YOUNG

PEOPLE adversely affected by local authority decisions have no common law right to be consulted before such decisions are taken, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

In a case involving residential homes in Devon and Co. Durham seeking a right to be consulted over closure plans, Mr Justice Popplewell said: "It would cause administrative chaos if, before any decision, those adversely affected were required to be consulted. Members of county and district councils are democratically elected and represent the views of their constituents. It is their responsibility to reflect those views."

He rejected applications for judicial review by residents of four council old peoples' homes who said they were unfairly and unlawfully denied a voice. He ruled that, in any event, judicial review was an inappropriate remedy in such cases as residents had a right to complain to the health secretary.

The residents of the homes and their relatives and supporters are considering whether to take their case to the Court of Appeal or to the health secretary.

### AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS

**British Red Cross**

National Headquarters  
9 Grosvenor Crescent  
London, SW1X 7EJ

#### ACTION FOR SOMALIA

Dear Times Reader

Somalia is being ravaged by - what has been called - the "worst humanitarian disaster in the world".

Today, I appeal personally for urgent funds to help the people of this 'forgotten' nation. Please spare a few minutes - to read why my appeal is so critical.

Since late 1991 civil war has left thousands of innocent Somalis for dead. Families shelter from bullets in the empty shells of their homes. Many have fled in terror.

Tragically, the crisis is deepening. Famine has now taken grip. As I write, 3 million lives are at risk in Somalia. Parents cry out for food for their children.

Some take desperate measures. Muhammed Abdi kept his family alive by feeding them a stew made from the skin of a dead camel, found on the roadside.

Others can find NO food. Helpless mothers cling to their wasting children. You cannot tell the age of a child here. You are just relieved that he or she is still alive.

Thankfully MANY have been rescued from the brink of death. Because the Red Cross is in Somalia, braving bullets that have already killed three of our workers. We've opened 200 community kitchens in Mogadishu alone. 9 ships deliver food to 10 towns. And food is arriving via Mombasa, for central Somalia.

SADLY THIS IS NOT ENOUGH. The scale of the tragedy grows by the minute. Reports from Red Cross workers, like British nurse Pauline Dodds, show that the people of Mogadishu are in an appalling state of malnutrition - the legacy of months without food.

Today my task is to raise VITAL funds to buy MORE supplies. Every penny will help people like Pauline to save innocent lives. Food relief for a family like Muhammed Abdi's costs just £15 a month. £36 will feed one child for a WHOLE year.

We need your help to CONTINUE saving lives. Please give as generously as you can NOW. Lives depend on it.

Yours sincerely

Mike Whitlam, Director-General

PS We rely on public donations. And millions of people rely on us. Currently the British Red Cross is working in 44 countries worldwide. From Cambodia to Yugoslavia. PLEASE HELP NOW.

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Registered Charity No. 229093

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**RED ALERT HOTLINE ON 071 235 3424**

Leading article, page 15

Photo: David Smith

# Oil industry yard sheds 1,300 jobs in Highlands

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE biggest private sector employer in the Highlands, the oil industry yard at McDermont-Scotland at Ardross near Inverness is to shed almost 1,300 jobs.

The American-owned firm said it had failed to win a vital order to build an accommodation platform to serve the Claymore Bravo oilfield, 110 miles northeast of Aberdeen. The workforce was said to be "shattered and stunned" after McDermont announced that it would need to shed more than half of its 2,500 strong workforce, with first redundancies taking effect next month.

Jimmy Gray, shop stewards' convenor, said: "No one expected anything of this magnitude. In this industry we are used to peaks and troughs but this is the largest single pay-off in the history of UK onshore construction."

More than 900 hourly-paid workers will lose their jobs, along with 80 salaried staff. About 200 people employed by sub-contractors will also become redundant.

Union leaders called for the trade and industry department to intervene to ensure equipment for the United Kingdom continental shelf was supplied from Britain.

Harry McLevy, regional officer of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said: "The government has got to do something about this. It cannot continue to sit back and wash its hands. The government either has no influence in the British sector of the oilfield, or it refuses to use its influence to help us."

Union officials will meet on Monday to decide their next move. Mr McLevy said they would apply "maximum pressure" to try to save the jobs.

Local council leaders are to seek an urgent meeting with

the energy minister, Tim Eggar, to express their concern.

Elf-Aquitaine, the French oil company that heads the consortium operating the Claymore Bravo field, said it had invited competing tenders to build an accommodation platform to house more than 230 men working on the oilfield. A spokesman would not say whether a contract had been awarded.

At present, the men are living on a floating accommodation unit alongside the production platform, which handles the output of the Claymore and Scapa fields and five smaller adjoining oil reserves.

Although Elf is the operator, its partners in the development are Texaco and Union Texas of the United States and the British group Lasmco. The Elf spokesman said installation of a fixed accommodation platform would help further development of oil reserves in the Claymore area, and would also benefit safety on the field.

The Scottish TUC described the job losses as catastrophic. Richard Leonard, assistant secretary, said: "It is not enough to simply blame the invisible hand of the market. The British government is in charge of offshore licensing. It must take a share of the blame for failing to manage licensing rounds to avoid big peaks and troughs in orders."

The EC had been pushing for more North Sea work to go to yards in southern Europe, he said. Many of them, especially in Spain and Portugal, could undercut British yards by using cheap labour.

They also worked to much lower health and safety standards and were given financial aid by their governments.



Open to offers: Fasnakloch near Oban, one of 20 Scottish sporting estates on the market. Below: how game has risen in value

## Shooting estates survive the slump

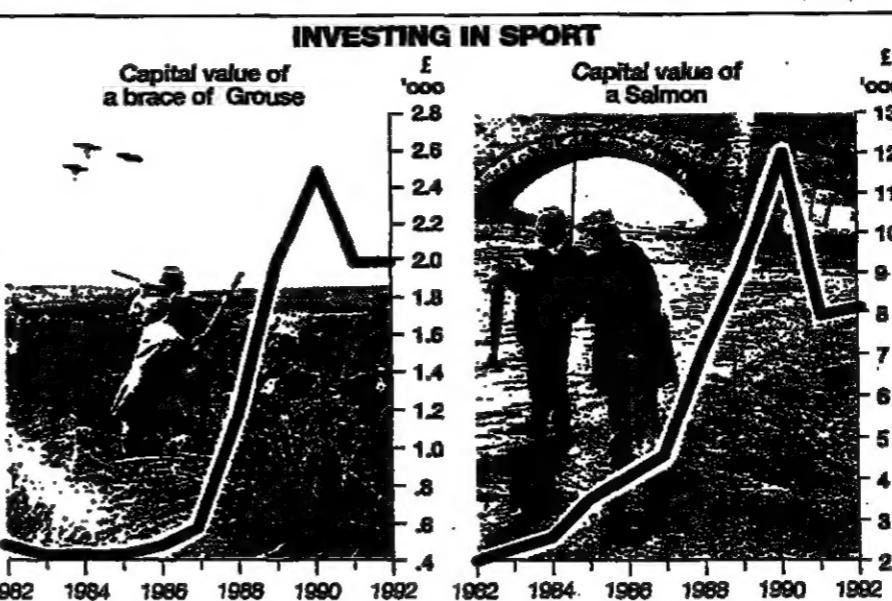
Scottish sporting estates have beaten the recession, writes Rachel Kelly. The secret of their success is not land, but stock

**SPORTING** estates providing salmon fishing and grouse shooting have proved the best investment in Scottish country property over the past decade.

Despite the worst slump in the market in most gamekeepers' memories and headlines about the number of properties up for sale, the capital value of Scottish estates has quadrupled over the past decade. Price falls of 40 per cent over the past two years mask gains for grouse, stag and salmon (one way of valuing estates) over the decade as a whole, according to a survey by Bell-Ingram, one of the largest land surveyors in Scotland.

The capital value of grouse shooting has quadrupled from £500 in 1982 to about £2,000 a brace now. Values for stalking have increased from about £7,000 in 1982 to £15,000 a stag today. On the best rivers, values of £1,500-£2,000 a fish were achieved in 1982; now owners can expect £6,000-£8,000.

In contrast, Bell-Ingram estimates that good quality farmland has lost about 40 per cent of its value. Though country houses devoid of large estates have seen threefold rises, according to Colin Strang Steed at Knight Frank & Rutley's Scottish office, farm houses with land are now selling for the same



levels as in 1982. Forestry land and permanent pasture have seen falls of 23 per cent and 43 per cent respectively, Bell-Ingram says.

"Though there have been dramatic price falls recently in Scottish sporting estates, their essential rarity means

that over a longer period, such estates have outstripped other types of property," the firm says. "It is also true that transport is improving dramatically in the north of Scotland. These estates are getting more accessible, pushing prices up."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Collision trawler's mate jailed

The mate of a fishing trawler that gashed the side of a supertanker, causing 1,100 tons of crude oil to pollute the Devon and Cornwall coast, was jailed yesterday. John McAlpine, 36, denied he was watching the 1990 FA Cup final on the wheelhouse television set.

The 25-metre Brixham-based trawler *Dionne Marie* collided with the 118,000-ton Japanese tanker *Rose Bay*, whose skipper had twice altered course and twice sounded his siren. The oil escaped in 40 minutes through a metre-long split. A 17-day anti-pollution operation involving five ships and 16 aircraft cost £1 million.

McAlpine, of Brixham, Devon, who claimed he was on his hands and knees sweeping the bridge carpet while the craft was on autopilot, admitted endangering a ship or persons on board. He was sentenced at Exeter Crown Court to 12 months, half of which was suspended.

### Condom first

What is believed to be the first publicly sited vending machine for condoms was unveiled at Nuneham, Warwickshire. The council had repealed a 1949 by-law forbidding street contraceptive machines. The dispenser, similar to a canned drink machine, will be followed by others.

### Rampton move

Five staff members at Rampton secure psychiatric hospital, Nottinghamshire, have been suspended over the death of a patient said at an inquest to have had a heart attack. Police will send a report to the Director of Public Prosecutions within a month.

### Sale record

A pair of George III mirrors with rare silver frames, supplied by Thomas Chippendale, to Harewood House, West Yorkshire, for £40 in 1775, sold for a record £319,000 at Christie's, London.



The arrival of a new Alfa Romeo will always command attention. During its eighty year history the marque has repeatedly redefined what can be expected of a sporting saloon: scintillating performance, combined with handling poise, luxury and refinement.

The new Alfa Romeo 155 fiercely upholds this tradition. Yet moves it on to new heights.

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Naturally, every 155 delivers the performance you'd expect of an Alfa Romeo, from the 125 mph maximum (where permitted) of

the 1.8 to the 0-60 in 6.8 seconds and 140 mph top speed of the Cloverleaf 4.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

Collision  
trawler  
mate jail

## Church counsellors try to 'cure' gay and lesbian Christians

By RUTH GLEEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

INCREASING numbers of evangelicals are attempting to "heal" lesbian and gay Christians of their homosexuality, according to a television documentary to be broadcast on Sunday.

Lesbians and homosexuals who join evangelical or charismatic churches often find that their sexual orientation is at odds with the fundamentalist view of homosexuality as a sin. According to Joan Bakewell, presenter of BBC1's *Heart of the Matter*, many are turning to church-based counsellors, some of whom have no professional training and who often base their practice on the theory that homosexuality is caused by a faulty relationship with the parent of the same sex. Ms Bakewell questions whether, in seeking to "cure" homosexuality, such counsellors will not be doing more harm than good.

The Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement is to begin an enquiry into the phenomenon, known as the "ex-gay movement" and based mainly in non-affiliated evangelical and Baptist churches. The Rev Richard Kirker, general secretary of the movement, said that lesbian and homosexual Christians were being "targeted for conversion by Christian-inspired attempts to 'heal' or 'convert' them to heterosexuality". He added: "To coerce anyone to abstain from a sexual relationship, solely because of sexual orientation, leads to a profoundly distorted and incomplete life."

"Rather than offering true healing to the sexually confused or vulnerable, the ex-gay movement simply creates an illusion of false hope. People who are misled in this way are denied the chance of finding sexual wholeness and God's unconditional love. We

must ward off these dangers." *Heart of the Matter* describes the case of Simon Harvey, a homosexual Christian who committed suicide aged 27. After his death, his father, the Rev George Harvey, a Baptist from Ipswich, set up a counselling service to help men and women who want to be free of homosexuality. Mr Harvey says that there is every possibility that sexual orientation can be changed. "It is bringing a person out of a negative situation in absolute denial into a positive situation." He claims to have witnessed "the great deliverance only God can bring".

Martin Hallett, formerly a practising homosexual and now a counsellor, says: "I do believe that our ultimate authority in terms of understanding what God says on certain issues must come from the Bible and from our understanding of what the Bible says."

A biblical text used frequently by evangelicals when debating this issue is I Corinthians xi, where St Paul says that none who are guilty of homosexual perversion will possess the kingdom of God.

Some refer to the Old Testament, which speaks of homosexuality as an abomination. One former homosexual, now married with children, describes in the programme how Christian counselling helped him to give up a life of gay clubs, dressing in drag and picking up men in the street. Another, who tried counselling but remained homosexual, says that his counsellor hugged and kissed him on a couch and described the process as "dangerous". Those for whom it did not work might feel they lacked faith, or that God did not love them enough to make them heterosexual, he says.

## Prisoners star in televised justice

TV cameras could cut manpower and costs in remand hearings. Richard Ford went to jail to view a pilot project

AS A convicted prisoner, Eben Gordon needed no rehearsal for the series of fictitious roles he adopted for television cameras yesterday.

At Norwich prison, where he is in the twelfth year of a life sentence, Mr Gordon portrayed Dan Shifty, a juvenile burglar, Jack Thumper, accused of assault, and Fred Biggs, charged with reckless driving, characters invented for an experiment involving five television links between a magistrates' court and a prison cell.

Mr Gordon was uneasy at the potential development in the criminal justice system that could result in remand prisoners being dealt with by the courts without leaving prison. "Many remand prisoners like to travel from prison to court and back again. It is a day out for them, a break from prison routine," he said.

The four-week scheme is designed to see if audiovisual techniques can be used to deal with remand prisoners, saving the money and manpower involved in escorting prisoners to and from magistrates' courts.

Four convicted prisoners at Norwich adopt the roles of people remanded on charges ranging from the simplest to the most complicated offences, while magistrates, a court clerk and two solicitors at Great Yarmouth play their customary parts in simulated hearings. The experiment includes a confidential telephone link between the "defendant" and his solicitor to allow in case an accused wants to give instructions. Although Mr Gordon would prefer to be in court

for a remand hearing, other inmates involved in the experiment said such links would end hours of delay at magistrates' courts, where remand prisoners often had to share crowded cells. Norman Daglass, serving two years for burglary, said: "The remand hearing is often over in three minutes and then you have to wait until every other prisoner has been dealt with before leaving the prison. It can take hours. With this link, you can come down and be back in your cell within a few minutes."

The project is being spearheaded in Norwich after a Norfolk police study in 1988 found that the equivalent of 28 police officers were engaged full-time in escort duties each day.

Inspector Philip Jones, who studied similar television links in Dade County, Florida, and Toronto, Ontario, said that the idea offered huge savings and would allow police to concentrate on tackling crime.

A report on the pilot project will be sent to the Home Office and the Lord Chancellor's department later this year. Last night, a Home Office spokesman said that audio-visual links would be suitable only for certain local prisons.

The prospect of savings is certain to attract the attention of the Treasury. Savings, however, were the last thing worrying Mr Daglass. His next role was as Dick Rumpole, an alcoholic shoplifter. The name and a drink problem were not worrying him. But the fact that Rumpole was charged with stealing knickers from Marks & Spencer was a grave embarrassment.

ALAN DONOVAN



Rehearsal: magistrates and prisoner on screen



Many happy returns: Dame Barbara Cartland with her son Ian McCorquodale, at her 91st birthday luncheon in London yesterday. Among the guests were Prince Michael of Kent

Diary, page 14

## HOME NEWS 7

### Bletchley Park fund launched

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE government was yesterday urged to release Bletchley Park, the wartime code-breaking centre, for use as a museum of cryptology and the history of computing.

The call came at a reception in London to launch a £7 million appeal to save the Buckinghamshire site from demolition and to establish a museum commemorating breaking the Enigma cipher, the key to British success in the intelligence war.

Ted Enevold, of the Bletchley Park Trust, said the aim was to develop a series of museums and turn the house into an hotel with a 1940s ambience. Most of code-breaking huts are still intact.

At its height Bletchley Park employed 12,000 people, including some of Britain's most brilliant mathematicians. It was also where one of the first electronic computers, Colossus, was built to help in code-breaking.

The site is occupied by the Civil Aviation Authority, BT and various government offices. Of these only the CAA intends to stay on.

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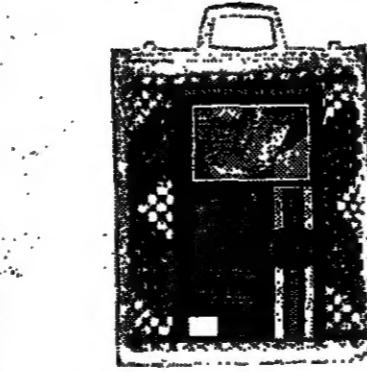
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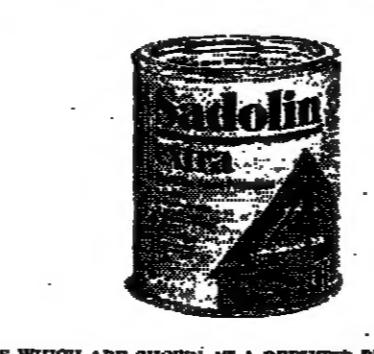
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# Major cuts back on top people's rises

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

**RECOMMENDED** salary increases for Britain's most distinguished public servants were cut by more than £25,000 a head yesterday as the prime minister applied the pay brakes as part of his battle against inflation.

The Top Salaries Review Body said that Lord Taylor of Gosforth, the Lord Chief Justice, Sir Robin Butler, the cabinet secretary and the head of the home civil service, and Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, chief of the defence staff, should have their salaries increased from April 1 from £104,750 to £130,000.

The cabinet decided that the proposed increase of more than 24 per cent for the first flight should be cut to 4 per cent in the first instance. Their salaries will rise to £108,940 initially. From April next year they will get an extra 3 per cent, with 2.8 per cent coming in the following year, as a 9.8 per cent total increase is phased in over three years. Cost of living increases in the next two years will be on top of these figures.

The report from the review body covers 1,290 judges, 660 civil servants and 190 officers in the armed forces. Its recommendations would have pushed up the pay bill for this group by 19.7 per cent at a cost of £27.6 million.

But the government has decided to cut the increase for all groups to 4 per cent against the background of the sluggish escape from the recession, tight private sector pay settlements and low inflation. The rise adds £5.6 million to the pay bill.

The review body, chaired by Sir David Nicolson, the chairman of NatWest, the merchant bank, reports that its recommendations are based on the most detailed comparisons between the public and private sectors over the past seven years. Real income of the so-called remit group had increased by 7 per cent, compared with 22 per cent in the economy as a whole and more than 40 per cent among senior executives. The top 200 public servants covered by the review body had suffered a 3 per cent drop in comparison with their business counterparts.

Permanent secretaries, paid 74 per cent of the private sector rate in 1985, received only 45 per cent of the benchmark in March 1992. The cabinet secretary slipped

back from 72 per cent of his market rate in 1985 to 39 per cent in March 1992.

The review body says it has taken into account the country's economic circumstances and deplored efforts to manipulate the pay of senior public servants as part of a counter-inflation policy. It says that its recommendations have little to do with the

short-term and everything to do with the long-term quality and effectiveness of the public sector.

"The UK has had an enviable record of exceptionally able people at the most senior levels in the judiciary, the armed forces and the civil service. They are motivated by a sense of public duty and vocation, and sustained by

"But pay must play a part. If those at the top were to become less than fully motivated, and recruitment of those of the necessary calibre became difficult once again as we move out of recession, then it would take years to recover the position."

the interest they take in their work and the prestige of their roles.

Passing sentence: the prime minister has put the brakes on pay rises for 1,290 judges, along with top civil servants and army officers



	Existing salary £	Rec'd'd rise £	Actual award £
Judiciary:			
Lord Chief Justice of England, Master of the Rolls	104,750	130,000	108,940
Lords Justices of Appeal and Privy Council Family Division	97,000	120,000	100,880
High Court Judges	83,000	115,000	96,720
Officer Referees	84,250	100,000	87,620
Industrial Tribunal presidents, Judge Advocates Gen. circuit judges (min)	73,250	83,000	76,180
Advocate General, circuit judges (max)	61,600	74,000	64,064
Chairmen of Industrial Tribunals and Magistrates	61,600	74,000	67,584
Senior Civil Servants	50,500	62,000	52,520
Secretary of the Cabinet & Head of the Home Civil Service	104,750	130,000	108,940
Permanent Secretary to Treasury	98,000	120,000	107,920
Permanent Secretary to DfEE	93,000	100,000	87,620
Deputy Secretary (minimum)	77,500	93,000	80,800
(maximum)	70,400	72,000	62,504
Under Secretary (London) minimum	48,300	58,000	51,272
maximum	57,000	68,000	59,280
Under Secretary (other) minimum	48,000	58,000	49,920
maximum	55,700	68,000	57,928
Secretary			
Admiral of the Fleet, Field Marshal, Marshal of the RAF	104,750	130,000	108,940
Admiral, General, Air Chief Marshal	84,250	100,000	87,620
Air Marshal	60,600	74,000	63,024
Rear Admiral, Major General, Air Vice-Marshal	53,000	63,000	55,120

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# THAT'S

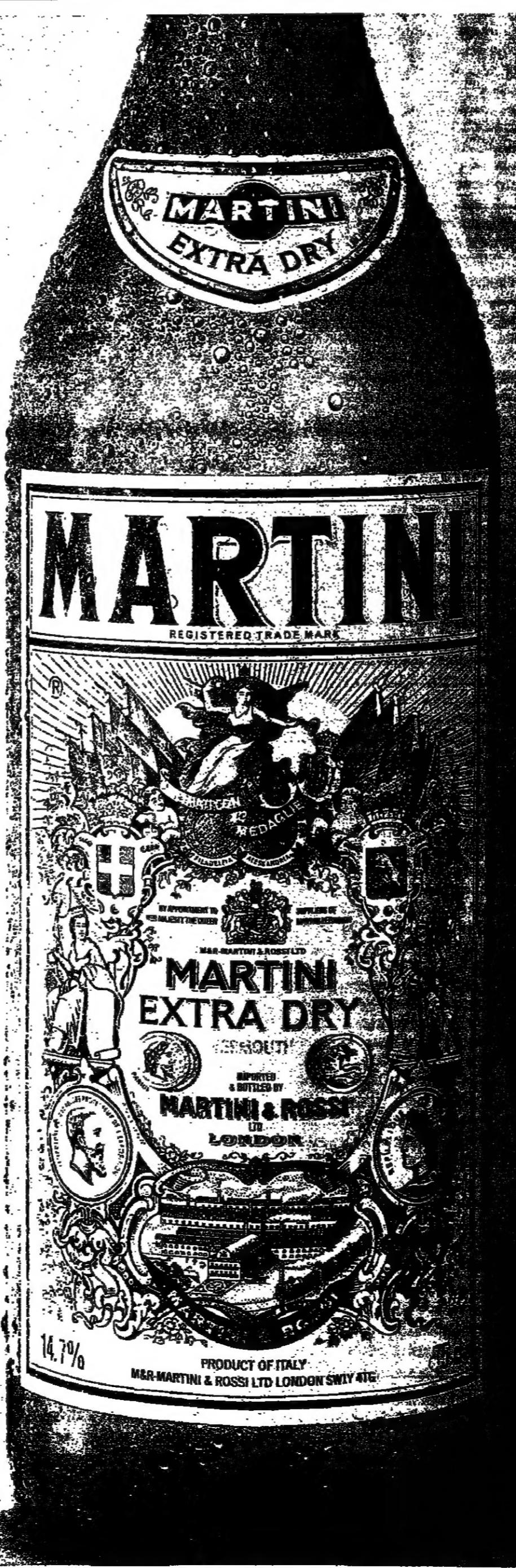
ISN'T THAT A REFRESHING IDEA?

# COOL.

WHAT ELSE IS A FRIDGE FOR?

**MARTINI**

IT'S GOING TO BE AN  
EXTRA DRY  
WEEKEND.



# Ministers face rebellion over MPs' allowance

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government could face a revolt in the Commons next week after its decision to slash the review body recommendations on MP office allowances, saving the exchequer £5.5 million.

On Tuesday MPs will vote on the government's decision to throw out the review body's proposal that office cost allowances should rise by between 23.6 per cent in 40.2 per cent, taking the maximum allowance to between £37,360 to £42,360, on top of the 4.25 per cent annual uprating. The total extra cost would have been £8 million.

The prime minister has opted instead to increase the maximum allowance from £28,986 to £33,190, a 9.8 per cent rise on top of the annual uprating, costing an extra £2.5 million. The interests of the taxpayer had to be balanced against the needs of MPs, the government concluded.

Ministers hope that they have given MPs enough to ward off a rebellion, but Labour and Tory MPs have been arguing for some time for a substantial rise in secretarial allowances.

The prime minister has also overruled the review body's recommendation to split the office cost allowance into separate allowances for staff and equipment. The report suggests that MPs should have an allowance of £33,360 for two full-time staff instead of the present one and a half. All MPs need an experienced executive secretary, on a salary of about £18,000 to £20,000, and a constituency assistant or second secretary, on about £12,000 to £15,000 depending on experience, it says. It also proposes a £4,000 allowance for general office expenses, a £5,000 one-off grant for computer equipment, and bulk buying for equipment.

The report suggests a separate sum of £2,000 a year for MPs who are based in their constituency and the setting up of a personal office to advise MPs and their staff on rates of pay and job specifications.

In its response, given in a written answer by Tony Newton, Leader of the House, the government dismisses most of these recommendations as impractical or too costly. It argues that splitting the office cost allowance would not improve accountability and would reduce MPs' flexibility. It also opposes setting up a separate constituency office allowance which would be difficult to assess.

Mr Newton said the case for central procurement of equipment needed further consideration and, in the meantime, it did not favour the introduction of a separate one-off grant for equipment. The government also rejects the idea of a separate personnel office, a proposal prompted by review body concerns about the employment conditions of MPs' staff.

The government has opted to retain the allowances as a single sum but to increase the maximum level. While accepting that £4,000 should be

provided for general office expenses, it says that this should be part of the overall office allowance.

As if to add insult to injury, Mr Newton points out that at present an MP who joins or leaves the House part-way through a year is entitled to claim against the full year's allowance. He proposes that, from April 1, 1993, eligibility for the office allowance should be calculated on a quarterly basis.

Parliament rises for the summer recess next Thursday and returns on October 19.

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

- Monday: Debate on the siting hours of the House.
- Tuesday: Second reading of the Sunday Trading (Conservation) Bill.
- Wednesday: Motion on MPs' office costs allowance.
- Wednesday: Debate on the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Disclosure of Information) Bill.

all stages. Thursday: Summer adjournment debates.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be:

- Monday: British Coal and British Rail (Transfer Proposals) Bill, second reading.
- Tuesday: Debate on the enlargement of the European Community.
- Wednesday: Debate on the famine in Southern Africa.
- Thursday: Boundary Commissions Bill, second reading.

THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

## Lamont backs ERM in face of Tory calls for interest rate cut

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

**NORMAN LAMONT** yesterday mounted a sustained defence of the anti-inflation benefits of the European exchange rate mechanism in the face of renewed demands from Conservative MPs, supported by Baroness Thatcher, for cuts in interest rates.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer dismissed as "pure fool's gold" the idea that devaluing the pound within the ERM could assist the British economy.

Mr Lamont and his fellow Treasury ministers were repeatedly questioned about remarks attributed to Lady Thatcher, but later denied, suggesting that the pound should revalue against the mark and that interest rates should be sharply cut. He was speaking in the Commons against the background of growing concern among Tory MPs about the slowness of the recovery and the constraints placed on the government by membership of the ERM.

The Chancellor said there were no "quick fixes" and, in an important policy speech tonight, he will underline the importance of the ERM in creating a long-term anti-inflationary framework in Britain. In an address to the European Policy Forum Mr Lamont will clearly rule out any prospect of withdrawal from the ERM.

MPs of all parties had seized on a report yesterday that Lady Thatcher, speaking privately to industrialists, had said that the economy was heading for a "financial acci-

dent" unless policies were changed. Her office later denied the remarks attributed to her, although she is known to have told friends of her belief that interest rates are too high. Speaking to David Frost on June 28, she called for a devaluation of sterling within the ERM and a reduction in interest rates.

Of the other reported remarks, her office said last night: "They are wild and bear no relation to what was said. When Lady Thatcher wants to make her views known, she does so cleanly and publicly and not in this way."

Of more concern to the government are the calls from Tory MPs for interest rates cuts. The Commons was surprised by a demand from Sir Peter Tapsell, the MP for Lindsey East and long-time supporter of Michael Heseltine, that Britain should withdraw, at least temporarily, from the exchange rate mechanism.

He said during prime minister's questions: "Now that Germany has made it clear it intends to continue for a very long period in the maintenance of economic policies which are driving the rest of Europe from recession into slump, it is more than ever necessary for British ministers to show some resolution in protecting British industry.

"Since this country has been determining its money supply for several centuries, why do ministers find that they suddenly cannot do this themselves without having their hands held by a group of German bank clerks. Has the time not now come to leave the exchange rate mechanism, at least until such time that German interest rates have been lowered to a level compatible with the needs of the whole of the rest of Europe?"

Earlier, Mr Lamont had said: "The idea that, by depreciating the exchange rate, we will improve the economy is pure illusion, pure fool's gold." He insisted that Britain's current account would not be a constraint on growth. "The only way in



### Race law charges ruled out

David Irving, the historian, is not to be prosecuted under the Race Relations Act over his claims about the holocaust, Sir Nicholas Lyell, the attorney-general, said in a written reply.

Mr Irving claimed that the gas chambers used by the Nazis were a propaganda invention. Glenda Jackson (Hampstead and Highgate, Lab) had asked whether proceedings were being considered over "the organisation of revisionist seminars describing the holocaust as a liberal myth".

**New peers** Norman Tebbit, the former Tory cabinet minister and party chairman, was introduced in the Lords as Lord Tebbit of Chingford. Denis Howell, Labour's sports minister and minister for the 1976 drought, was introduced as Lord Howell of Astor Manor.

**Recall likely** MPs will be called back from their long summer break if the situation in the former state of Yugoslavia requires it, Tony Newton, the leader of the House, said. Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab) had asked for a recall if British forces or bases are used.

**Lottery talks** Some 231 organisations and individuals have made submissions to the government about the national lottery. David Mellor, the heritage minister, said in a written reply. Discussions will continue over the next few months and legislation will be introduced in due course.

**Parliament today** Commons (9.30): Debate on backbench motion on imports and disposal of toxic wastes in Wales.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

### MP takes row with whips to the top

BY SHEILA GUNN  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR became ensnared yesterday in the row about the independence of Commons select committees after Conservative whips gagged one of their most outspoken MPs, Nicholas Winterton.

Mr Winterton, the MP for Macclesfield, wrote to the prime minister asking for a meeting to discuss the refusal of whips and the selection committee to nominate him for the health committee, which he served on for 13 years and chaired in the last parliament. He also disclosed to journalists the assurances given to him privately by Mr Major last year about the independence of the 16 cross-party committees.

Yesterday the selection committee published full lists of MPs picked to serve on select committees. No women have been chosen for some of the key committees.

The bad blood between Mr Winterton and Richard Ryden, the government chief whip, dates from Mr Winterton's disobedience of the "whip" in voting against the government's health service reforms.

Mr Major wrote to Mr Winterton on February 21, 1991: "I was grateful to you for letting me know the terms in which you propose to conduct the chairmanship of the health select committee. I have no doubt that you will bring your own skill, knowledge and commitment to that task and that you will do it excellently."

In a second letter on March 11, 1991, he wrote: "Every member of a select committee is free to vote for the person of his or her choice if a vacancy arises for the chairmanship. That has always been the case and will continue to be so." The words in italics were undersigned by Mr Major.

Mr Winterton takes his fight to the Commons next Monday when MPs will be asked to sanction the nominations.

Diary, page 14



Ridley joined ranks with Baroness Thatcher

## POLITICS & GOVERNMENT 9

### Ridley demands stand on 'bullying and blackmail'

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

**NICHOLAS RIDLEY** challenged John Major yesterday to prove his ability to stand up to "bullying and blackmail" from the European Commission by rejecting the Maastricht treaty.

In a speech which came close to accusing the prime minister of lying over his interpretation of the treaty, the former cabinet minister joined ranks with Baroness Thatcher in demanding a referendum before ratification.

Lord Ridley criticised the impact and cost of the treaty's measures and the "peevish and small-minded" treatment of the Danes for opposing ratification.

Lord Ridley, who resigned from the Thatcher government after his remarks about Germany's ambitions in Europe, told a seminar organised by the anti-EC Bruges Group that the Major government seemed determined to pile agony on agony by pressing ahead with ratification in spite of Denmark's "no" vote.

He said: "Surely the British prime minister should give the British electors what we well know they want? If he is not going to have a referendum, it is all the more important that he reflects the wishes of the people. A little less bullying by the whips would be welcome too."

If British voters were told

what the measures in Maastricht would cost them in extra taxes, he forecast that no more than one in ten would vote "yes". "But we are not going to be told this information, nor asked to vote. The reason why we are not is because the government knows they would lose that vote, if they don't accept that, let them try."

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If British voters were told

that the Danes showed a frightening insight into the way the Euro-fanatic mind worked, he said. But EC membership could only be taken away from Denmark by force majeure. "I hope the Euro-fanatics are not contemplating that."

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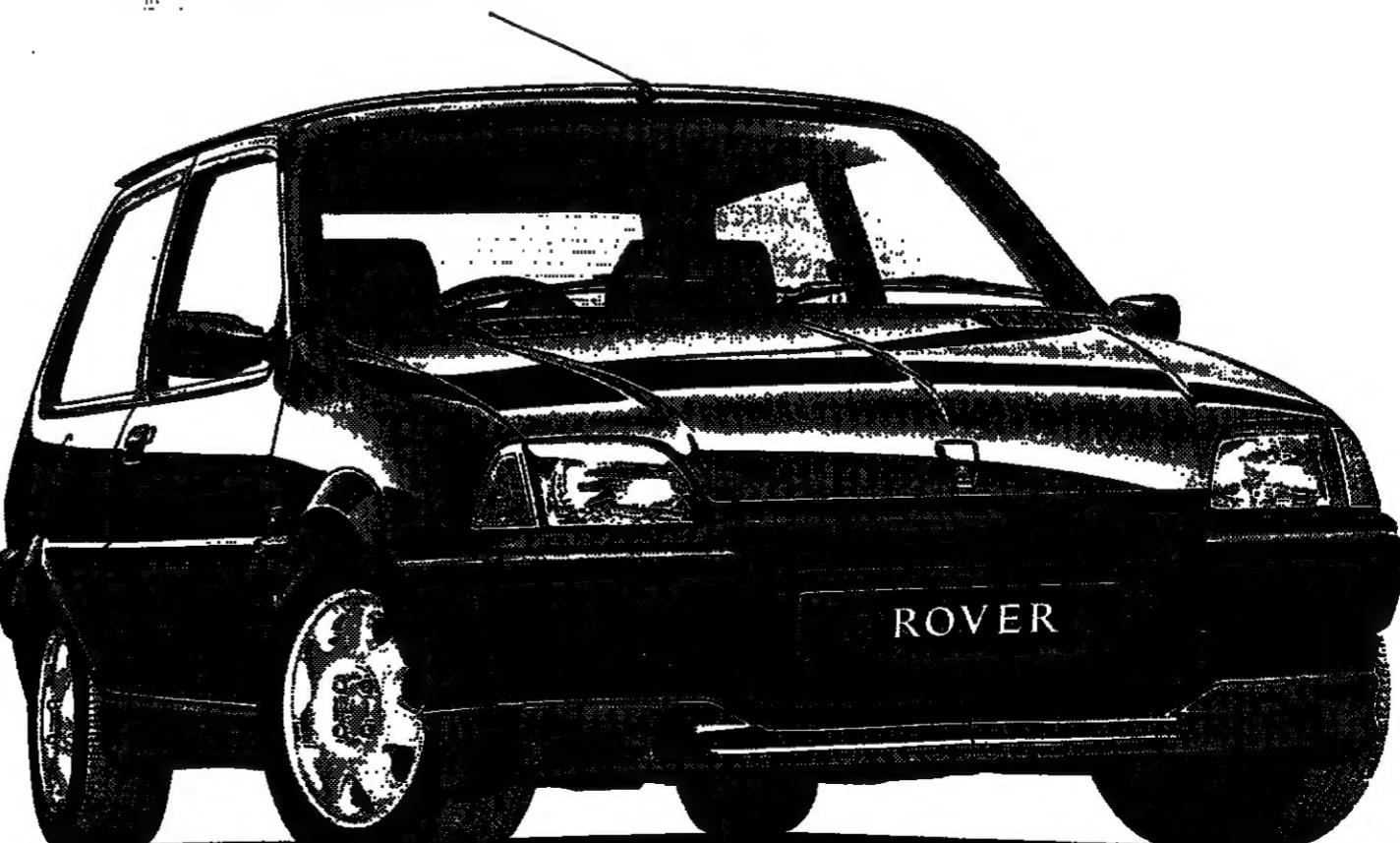
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# Heads insist schools are opting out for extra money

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOLS are being attracted to opting out mainly by the government's financial incentives and not because they are dissatisfied with local authorities, the National Association of Head Teachers said yesterday.

The association's survey of the impact of schools' responsibility for their own budgets showed that almost 75 per cent of heads were satisfied with services provided by local authorities. Few wanted

were employing more teachers on temporary contracts as

delegated to schools. They tried to cope with greater fluctuations in funding each year. Up to one in six primary schools found most of their cash for books was wiped out because funding was cut

plating going grant maintained, the biggest attraction is cash. If ministers think it is, or should be, philosophy or the need to get out from under the local authority's skirts, that may be a factor for some schools, but most are doing it for cash."

Pressure for more financial delegation was coming from small blocks of secondary schools, which were weighing up the advantages of opting out, Mr Hart said. In Waltham Forest, east London, secondary heads had demanded the delegation of 98 per cent of the schools' budgets if they were not to

Academics from Birmingham University, who conducted the research among 800 schools, found that local management of schools had contributed to larger classes and forced schools to spend more on administration. But there was no agreement over the system's effect on the quality of learning.

Mr Hart said: "The early years of the new system. Only one in six had planned to underspend, but almost nine out of ten had done so. Large schools had benefited most from local management. Dr Thomas said that the system had been designed to reward popular schools, but ministers should consider whether it was right to reward size for its own sake.

quality of learning.

Head teachers spent an extra eight hours a week on management tasks, leaving most feeling more remote from classroom issues. Two-thirds said the switch from

Mr Hart said: "The evidence tells us that higher standards will depend on the quality of teaching in the classroom." Extra administration left heads with less time to monitor their schools.

thirds said the switch from time to monitor their schools.

# **Canal users campaign to stop fee rises**

**Craig Seton**  
reports that  
**British Waterways**  
is being accused  
of greed in its  
efforts to raise  
extra revenue

A DISPUTE involving a pretty canalside pub is being highlighted by canal users in a campaign to show that British Waterways has adopted an abrasively commercial approach to the 2,000 miles of routes it manages.



**Defending a bridgehead: Elsie Gilkes has fought off British Waterways, but victory may be short-lived**

Cheshire, said that British Waterways wanted to increase the £4,000-a-year

than £2,000 a year. "They are bullying and frightening people into making agreements."

enabling legislation going back 200 years. British Waterways re-

British Waterways receives about £50 million a year in government grants, representing more than 60 per cent of its total income of £78 million in 1990-1. It says that Whitehall aid is being cut in real terms and it has to be more commercial to raise income. It was criticised recently for a £1.7 million sale of canalside land and property, including

Graham Avory, of British Waterways, said that it had drawn up a business strategy as the government was less inclined to put money into public services. "Unfortunately, there are some people who see us as money-grabbing, but the number jumping up and down is very small, although highly vocal."

Reformed church at Newbury, Berkshire, may be used to help introduce illegal immigrants into Britain, said the Rev David Bunney.

### **Wind farms**

**Wind farm**  
Ten farmers and a Danish energy company announced plans for a 200-acre wind farm, using 56 wind turbines, next to Hinkley Point nuclear power station, at Steart,

A black and white photograph of a Saab 9000 station wagon driving on a road at night. The car's headlights illuminate the dark road ahead. The license plate on the car reads "J405 UGF".

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

NEWS IN BRIEF  
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attacked  
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## Warning by Peking overshadows pomp as Patten is sworn in

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN HONG KONG AND CATHERINE SAMSON IN PEKING

THE welcoming ceremony of Hong Kong's 28th governor yesterday was an unashamedly traditional exhibition of British imperialism. It was a day of ramrod salutes, red carpets, shouting sergeant majors and judges in wigs. The massed bands of the Gurkha Rifles played, there was a 17-gun salute and a flypast. Swords, white gloves and immaculate pith helmets were all out of their boxes, and rows of uniforms exhibited razor-sharp creases.

But Chris Patten, the last "His Excellency" to be cheered ashore, defied convention, resolutely refusing to play the fancy uniforms game. Unlike his predecessor, Lord Wilson, who sailed away last month in the crisp white twill suit and plumed helmet of convention, Mr Patten ambled ashore looking hot and rather shamboolic in a drab grey suit. Alighting gingerly from his new yacht, *The Lady Mauve*, Mr Patten stepped up on to a

red-carpeted podium as *The Duke Of York March* was played, and, perhaps uncertain of protocol, made a half-hearted stab at standing to attention and nodded his uncertain approval of the guard of honour. Lavender Patten coolly observed her husband perform his unfamiliar duties, and their two daughters, Alice, 13, and Laura, 17, posed surive glances at each other.

Dozens of Chinese children had been waiting for hours for a glimpse of Mr Patten, and by the time he arrived a crowd of several thousand had gathered to cheer.

Inside the city hall, Mr Patten delivered a maiden speech couched in generalities. "I pledge to devote all my energy to representing the interests of the people of Hong Kong as strongly and wisely as I can. I will stand up for Hong Kong as you would wish me to do, courageously and firmly. Good co-operation with China is my sincere aim and my

profound wish. It is vital for the next five years, vital for Hong Kong."

But China gave a warning to Mr Patten yesterday that he would not have the freedom to establish a new democratic political system in the colony before the handover to Chinese rule in 1997.

In contrast with the pomp and ceremony in Hong Kong, Peking's response to the change of governorship was terse and low-key. This could reflect Peking's concern that Mr Patten will adopt a more confrontational approach in his dealings with China than his predecessor.

Chinese state-run television's main evening news broadcast made no mention of Mr Patten's swearing-in. The only official statement on the event was a sentence from Wu Jianmin, the foreign ministry spokesman, saying that China hoped Mr Patten would "make contributions to promoting continued development of the friendly relations of co-operation on the question of Hong Kong between China and Britain, to maintaining Hong Kong's long-term stability and prosperity and to guaranteeing Hong Kong's smooth transition and smooth transfer of government in 1997."

The Peking-controlled media in Hong Kong expressed China's feelings more bluntly. The *Wen Wei Po* newspaper compared Mr Patten to Lord Soames, the last governor of Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. "Britain cannot withdraw from Hong Kong in the way it did from Rhodesia. Hong Kong cannot become independent like Rhodesia. It can only return to its mother's body, the People's Republic of China. Chris Patten, both legally and politically, has no grounds on which to become a Soames."

The newspaper went on to say that Mr Patten would not have the freedom to set up a political structure for Hong Kong before 1997, as Soames set up Rhodesia's political system before independence.

Co-operation between Britain and China, said the paper, would also benefit British investors in Hong Kong and smooth the path to a "glorious withdrawal in 1997".

Mr Patten's arrival comes at

## Prisoners benefit in new South Africa's acceptance of reform

The signs of change have reached the jail where Verwoerd's killer is still being held, writes Michael Hanly from Pretoria

**T**HE man who killed Hendrik Verwoerd in 1966, Dementrio Tsatsas, is now a deaf old man. He sits in the hospital in Pretoria jail and contemplates the changes that the new South Africa has brought, even to life in prison.

Under the terms agreed for my visit to the prison, I may not report anything he said, but the jail environment, the people and the attitudes are plainly different from when he first stepped behind the prison walls 25 years ago.

To begin with, Pretoria local jail, where he is held, part of a huge prison campus on the outskirts of the nation's capital, used to be the black jail. White prisoners were kept in Pretoria Central, a Victorian-style fortress of brown stone built in 1907 that looks much like Holloway or Pentonville.

Now the local jail is mainly black. White prisoners under trial, wearing their own clothes, are kept there, together with a sprinkling of convicted whites who prefer perhaps to be kept with their criminal associates.

Black prisoners now have the same food as whites — pork chops, vegetables and mealie porridge on the day of our visit — and have access to much the same kind of services. But it is clear that those services are still essentially geared towards the white prisoners. The prison psychiatrist and the chief social worker both admitted that their training had not so far fitted them for dealing with the cultural differences between white and black prisoners. Both said that progress was being made.

**T**HE black prisoners are kept mainly in dormitories with 20 to 40 bunk beds. The doors are kept locked. Under such circumstances it is not surprising that gangsterism, drug abuse and buggery thrive. "Ask about the gang leaders who are rewarded by the warders for their co-operation by being put next to young boys in their cells," said a former prisoner from Pre-

toria.

Soames: Patten should not follow his example

In what was the white jail along the internal roadway, the education facilities are sophisticated, and in the workshops there prisoners (of all shades) are taught motor mechanics, carpentry, metalwork and upholstery. The prisoners are mostly white. The cells are mostly single cells. The landings are open and the cells are not locked. There is a quiet, less oppressive atmosphere.

The A category prisoners whose cells line the landings are allowed contact visits; they can touch their visitors instead of talking through a glass pane. They can have pets — birds or fish — and television or radio. There is a promotion ladder from C through B to A. Category D prisoners are kept at the security wing of the prison. The media are not allowed to see them, or the gallows that are there also.

Prisoners can be awarded restricted diet as a punishment. They can be caned, though no one at Pretoria has been caned this year.

Leading article, page 15

## Battle begins to save drought-stricken wildlife

FROM LAWRENCE BARTLETT  
IN HARARE

LORRYLOADS of hippopotamuses, elephants and buffaloes are taking to Zimbabwe's roads in an operation to save them from death from drought in the Gonarezhou national park.

Others less fortunate, including 2,000 elephants, will be shot so that the little food and water in the park will see the survivors through to the next rainy season. "Gonarezhou is an ecological disaster area," Colin Saunders, co-ordinator of a committee running the operation, said. "It is littered with carcasses."

The park on Zimbabwe's southeastern border with Mozambique, covers 12 million acres and is the second largest in the country. It has

been devastated by the worst drought this century, leaving the 100 or so surviving hippos unable to submerge in the few remaining watering holes unless they fold their legs. Some of the animals are to be taken to private ranches with water. Some will be fed through the dry winter months and others will be shot. Several hundred have died, Mr Saunders said.

The rescue operation is being carried out by the government's national parks and wildlife management department and a team of conservationists. Buffaloes are being taken up to 500 miles across the country to a safari area near Victoria Falls on the northwestern border with Zambia, which has had better rains. Elephants are more

difficult to deal with. At least 2,000 of them will have to be killed, Mr Saunders said. That would leave about 4,000 in the park. Some, particularly calves, will be

wildebeest will also be captured and moved, as will about 40 of the rare Lichtenstein's hartebeest. About 500 impala, a small antelope, will be shot. All meat from the culling will be distributed free to the people living near the park, whose crops and cattle have also been hit by the drought.

The park has been closed to the public. "We are looking at long-term rehabilitation," Mr Saunders said. "Two years of good rains should see improvement."

For Zimbabwe's conservationists, drought is part of a two-prong onslaught against the country's wildlife. Already underway is an operation to save the world's largest remaining herd of about 1,000 black rhinoceroses by cutting off their horns, thus cheating poachers.

ers of their prize. The horns are valued as medicine in the Far East and fetch about £480 a pound, attracting a steady stream of poachers from across Zimbabwe's borders.

Both operations are costly, and cash-strapped conservationists complain that the recent meeting in Japan of the Conference on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) denied Zimbabwe the opportunity to use wildlife products to raise funds for such measures. Zimbabwe had asked at CITES for the trade in both elephant ivory and rhino horn to be legalised, arguing that that would pay for improved conservation and at the same time reduce the black market demand which encourages poaching. (AFP)



New boy: Chris Patten, taking the oath as Governor of Hong Kong yesterday, watched by his wife Lavender, behind him, and their daughter Laura. The oath was administered by Chief Justice Ti Liang-yang

## Rare turtle wins by a sore head

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU  
IN NICOSIA

A BRAIN surgeon in Cyprus, used to operating on politicians, lawyers and businessmen, has performed a rare operation on a loggerhead turtle that was found with its skull apparently smashed by fishermen.

The turtle, one of an endangered species, was taken to the casualty ward at Nicosia General Hospital on Tuesday where, within half an hour, Dr Nicolas Spanos fitted it with an acrylic plate.

The British-trained neurosurgeon went to work on the synthetic headpiece with all his considerable skill. The crusty brown toupee blends perfectly with the loggerhead's gnarled face and body.

"I had to remove some bones from a depressed fracture and cover the hole in its head with special acrylic," Dr Spanos said yesterday. "It was fun." The lucky loggerhead, dubbed Tina Turtle by some journalists, looked less amused yesterday and still appeared to be suffering from a splitting headache. It was recuperating in a bathroom at the fisheries department in Nicosia.

The report, covering 142 countries, said prisoners were tortured by governments in more than 100 states, people "disappeared" in 26 countries and extra-judicial executions were carried out in 45. "Putting lip service to human rights in new laws and international declarations achieves nothing if in the end governments do not act on violations," Amnesty said.

It said democratic revolutions in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and Africa had ended some entrenched patterns of human rights abuses, notably in Zambia, Ethiopia, Albania and Lithuania. The scale of the changes was reflected in a rise in Amnesty members in Eastern Europe from a handful of surreptitious campaigners to more than 1,500 people last

## Amnesty says rights pacts breached by state violence

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

WORLD governments are breeding contempt for human rights by letting their security forces get away with murder, torture and abduction, the annual report of Amnesty International says. Although a growing number of governments have said they will stand up for human rights, they all too often fail to take action on past violations, it says.

"As long as the torturers, the state assassins and those who give the orders act with a free hand and without fear of punishment, the cycle of violations will never be broken," David Bull, director of the British section of the human rights organisation, said.

The report, covering 142 countries, said prisoners were tortured by governments in more than 100 states, people "disappeared" in 26 countries and extra-judicial executions were carried out in 45. "Putting lip service to human rights in new laws and international declarations achieves nothing if in the end governments do not act on violations," Amnesty said.

Gross violations detailed in the 1991 survey include:

□ The extra-judicial execution of 1,000 or more people in Burundi against a backdrop of ethnic tension.

□ The mass "Disappearances"

and extra-judicial executions in Iraq and Kuwait after the Gulf war.

□ The disappearance of at least 360 people in Peru.

□ The execution of at least 1,000 people in China.

Amnesty, which opposes the death penalty, expressed particular concern about the increase in state executions in the United States. Nineteen people were executed between January and May 1992, compared with 14 in the whole of last year, and four states had resumed executions after more than 20 years.

Mike Tyson's attorney has filed a court petition seeking a new trial for the former heavyweight boxing champion, claiming that Desree Washington's main motive for accusing him of rape was financial gain, according to television and newspaper reports.

The renowned Australian baller dancer Kelvin Coe, 45, has died in Melbourne of an AIDS-related illness, the Australian Ballet said.

## Bradford & Bingley mortgage rates are down.

Notice is given to borrowers whose existing variable rate loan or mortgage was completed on or before 22nd January 1992 that the rate charged will be reduced by 0.29% on 13th July 1992 (or later in accordance with the mortgage deed).

Borrowers who completed after 22nd January 1992 and before 12th May 1992 and who benefited from the Society's special 0.5% rate reduction will remain at their current level.

Borrowers who completed on or after 12th May 1992 already benefit from the Society's new rate structure and therefore will remain at their current level.

Those borrowers on fixed or capped rate mortgages will continue to be charged the agreed rate until the end of the period stated in their offer of mortgage.

Bradford & Bingley Building Society, PO Box No. 1, Cradley Heath, B64 2LA, West Midlands, England.

## OVERSEAS NEWS 11

### PEOPLE

#### Arafat's wife is reported pregnant

The Palestinian revolution will soon have an heir, according to an Egyptian newspaper, which claims that Yasir Arafat's young bride is pregnant. The semi-official weekly *Ross el-Yusuf* based its claim on the fact that Suha Arafat, 30, has put on weight and is walking a little awkwardly.

PLO officials, tired of the nudging and winking caused by their leader's marriage to an attractive woman less than half his age, refused to confirm or deny the report. Asked if there would be an announcement from PLO headquarters in Tunis, an official said: "Don't expect one. We don't work like Buckingham Palace." Mr Arafat, 52, married Suha, the daughter of the prominent West Bank journalist and poet Raymunda Tawil, in a secret ceremony in Tunis last November.

The United Nations cultural agency, Unesco, said it would award its annual Peace Education Award to Mother Teresa of Calcutta to "crown a life entirely consecrated to the service of the poor and to combating injustice".

The outgoing Ecuador president, Rodrigo Borja, 57, has suffered a serious heart problem and was traveling to San Antonio in Texas for treatment last night.

The Cuban president, Fidel Castro, is to attend the second summit of Iberian-American heads of state in Madrid on July 23-24, official Spanish sources said.

The former Zambian president, Kenneth Kaunda, who had refused to give up the leadership of his party after its heavy defeat in elections last year, has agreed to quit next month, after a closed meeting of the United National Independence Party's central committee.

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# UN fears that Croat attack will threaten Sarajevo aid

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

UNITED Nations officials co-ordinating the international relief airbridge to Sarajevo fear that a combined Bosnian government and Croat offensive may be in the offing to break the three-month siege of the city.

Large movements of troops and supplies have been seen to the west of Sarajevo and UN officials indicated that overnight shelling of Serbian positions came from artillery that was "possibly Croatian".

Bosnian Croat forces are believed to be on Mount Igman, within artillery range of Sarajevo, and small Croat units are operating in the city. Up to 50 lorries with troops and supplies have been seen moving to the west of the city in the past few days and at least one Serb position five miles to the south has been taken by soldiers presumed to be Croats. "They are very close," said one official.

It is unknown whether the Croats encroaching on the Serb ring around Sarajevo are all from the Bosnian Croats' army or loyal to the government in Sarajevo because of the profusion of arms and militias fighting in Bosnia. "The military situ-

ation is precarious," said Fred Eckhard, a UN spokesman. "The relief operation we are carrying out is terribly fragile as a result."

General Lewis MacKenzie, the chief of UN operations in the city, has said that he has received assurances that there are no plans to break the siege. However, Jerko Doko, Bosnia's defence minister who is a Croat, was reported yesterday to have said that "defending the independence of Bosnia is more important than humanitarian relief".

Under the agreement Bosnian and Serb artillery positions around Sarajevo airport have been placed under UN observation. Mr Eckhard said that on Wednesday night "we received calls from the Serbian side saying they were under attack." He said this message was relayed to the Bosnian presidency and that when the attacks did not stop the Serbs shelled Sarajevo's old city.

Mr Eckhard said: "Given the persistence of reports of the presence of Croatian forces in the area and our observation of firing on Serb positions from the southwest, we have to consider the possibility that there could be third party sources of shelling, possibly Croatian."

While Sarajevo is almost entirely surrounded by Serb forces, recent Croat successes mean that the military situation has begun to change. To the west and southwest the Serb ring around Sarajevo is itself surrounded.

UN officials fear that if the Croat and Bosnian forces decide on an offensive, their humanitarian airbridge will collapse because the Serbs are sandwiched between Bosnian troops inside the city and Croats outside.

The Bosnian war is one of shifting enmities and alliances. While Muslims and Croats appear to be co-operating around Sarajevo, there are several reports of clashes between them. Last week Croat nationalists followed Bosnian Serbs and declared virtual secession from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Overnight three mortar shells landed in the UN's Sarajevo headquarters car-park, damaging several cars. It was a pretty bad night," Mr Eckhard said. "I slept with a helmet on and a flak jacket over my pyjamas."

Despite the fighting, relief continues. Yesterday aid reached the suburb of Burić. "Children clapped, old people cried and others gave the UN soldiers flowers," said Fabrizio Hochschild, of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Meanwhile, the Serb parliament passed draconian measures to combat the effects of sanctions.

While parliament was in session, thousands of striking students marched past.

**Bush plea, page 1  
US reluctance, page 14**



Helsinki humour: President Bush enjoying President Yeltsin's company at the summit yesterday after the two leaders arrived from Munich

## Fears for safety of troops

BY MICHAEL EVANS

DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SENDING in the military to deal with one or other aspect of the Yugoslav conflict, whether to protect humanitarian aid supplies or to help enforce United Nations sanctions, has become so ad hoc that the victims of the civil war must be wondering how the nations of the great Western alliances ever succeeded in mounting any joint operation.

The United States has waited, with increasing frustration, for the Europeans to act, and the recent flurry of activity, notably the unilateral moves by France, has been partly due to Washington's goading behind the scenes. But there has been no common voice from European capitals.

France, seizing the opportunity to take the lead while Washington held back, has by its individual gestures wrongfooted both America and Europe, first with President Mitterrand's courageous six-hour visit to Sarajevo, undertaken without any consultation with his European colleagues, and now with the offer to send troops and helicopters to Bosnia.

While the announcement from Paris might give comfort to those in the streets of Sarajevo, the decision to send a squadron of attack helicopters, even though apparently approved by the UN in New York, created an immediate dilemma for Major-General Lewis Mackenzie, the highly capable Canadian commander of the UN forces in the Bosnian capital. As the commander on the ground, he knows that in such a threatening environment he cannot guarantee the safety of foreign helicopters in Sarajevo at this stage.

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**Bush plea, page 1  
US reluctance, page 14**

## Havel warns of history's demons

Leaders of former communist countries denounced the political, economic and environmental ruin wreaked on them, Michael Binyon writes from Helsinki

IN A sustained and searing indictment of the bitter legacy of communism, Vaclav Havel, the president of the dying federation of the Czech lands and Slovakia, yesterday spoke of the nationalist fanaticism, xenophobia and intolerance sweeping much of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

"One hundred and fifty years ago Europe was haunted by the spectre of communism. Today it is haunted by the spectre of post-communism," he told leaders of 51 nations, many of them former communist states, meeting here. He said that the citizens of the new democratic regimes were not used as freedom and were confused. "They find it difficult to get used to being fully fledged citizens and to get rid of all the bad habits which communism planted in them." It was now evident how very ill the communist economy was.

The veil of lies had fallen and the devastation of the environment had unfolded.

President Havel warned of the revival of history that had long seemed forgotten and superseded. "All the ancient conflicts, wrongs, injustices and animosities are suddenly coming back to life and back to mind." He said it was obvious that nothing had been forgotten or forgiven. "It is as if certain parts of

Europe and Asia awoke from a narcosis which had for years benumbed them and were beginning to live, the lives they had lived before."

They were remembering their past kings and emperors, their centuries-old thorny history. They were becoming aware of national identities repeatedly suppressed. It was understandable therefore that this should breed fanaticism, xenophobia and intolerance, as well as all kinds of demagogues, authoritarians and populists to whom people, overcome by a deep

feeling of uncertainty, were turning for salvation.

Mr Havel's forceful speech,

which described as a remarkable explanation of the post-communist unrest, was echoed by many other leaders of former communist countries, who repeatedly denounced the political, economic and environmental crisis of statehood.

He said the West had to

take up the great historic challenge of our generation:

to influence events in a creative way so that they would not bring chaos, new conflicts, misery or more suffering,

but a new, better order of peace.

"The peace orders maintained in Europe so far

are falling apart." This was also affecting the West, which was losing the former unity it had in the face of the threat from the East. "Confronted with the Eastern dramas, the

Central Europe because of its democratic traditions. "Yet my country, too, is now finding itself in a profound crisis of statehood."

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Central Europe because of its democratic traditions. "Yet my country, too, is now finding itself in a profound crisis of statehood."

Arnold Ruutel, the Estonian president, spoke of his bitterness at the loss of independence during the second world war, and said that there could be no stability in the Baltic states until all troops of the former Soviet Union were withdrawn. He said they significantly threatened security in northern Europe.

President Yeltsin had said in Munich on Wednesday that Russia would withdraw its forces. But Western leaders said that without a fixed date there was no assurance that this would happen.

## Diplomatic sherpas feel the strain in surfeit of summits

FROM MICHAEL BINION IN HELSINKI

DESPITE the bright Finnish sun and invigorating northern air, many of the delegates here have a weary look to them.

"This is my third summit in six days," said one British official arriving directly from the G7 meeting in Munich and the EC-Japan summit in London last weekend. Only a week earlier he and many others had just finished another gruelling round in Lisbon and Douglas Hurd, whose stamina appears to know no bounds, even managed to squeeze in a few hours in Strasbourg, addressing the European parliament before arriving in Helsinki.

Today he has two more summits as well: the Western European Union and Nato.

which decided that since everyone else was having a summit, it had better have one as well. The main burden of all this extended talk falls on the sherpas, the men who toll up to the peaks of diplomacy, hacking their way through jungles of verbiage and removing political boulders that stand in the way of agreed communiques.

They work in shifts, and larger countries can put different teams onto different events for the summer summit season: foreign office European specialists for Lisbon, treasury men for G7, security specialists for CSCE. These latter have had three months to organise this two-day ceremonial specifying.

But no burden falls as heavily as it does on the political directors, the men who have to agree the communiques line by line. "I had a pretty good night yesterday," one remarked. "We were finished by 1 am."

This summit has more participants than most, and many represent countries that have never figured before on the international stage, though their bloody birth pangs have rarely been out of the headlines: Croatia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bosnia and Georgia. Some of their leaders appear so unfamiliar that they have to wear their little pink CSCE tags even while standing at the podium — presumably in case the security men thought they were intruders.

## Art and craft

Moscow: Smugglers illegally exported £7 million of art works from Russia in 1991, three times as much as in 1990, a newspaper said. (AP)

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

OVERSEAS NEWS 13

## Clinton picks Gore in calculated bid for Southern vote

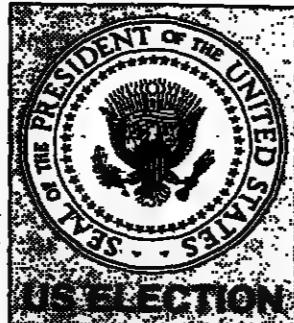
FROM PETER STOKEARD  
US EDITOR  
IN WASHINGTON

BILL Clinton announced yesterday that Senator Al Gore would be his running mate for the Democratic presidential campaign, marking a new stage in what George Bush has called this year's "weird" electoral politics.

Senator Gore, who ran for the presidency himself in 1988 and who refused to run this year when it seemed that President Bush was unbeatable, will now fight behind a man who for most of their careers has been his clear political junior in the Democratic South.

Although a year younger than Governor Clinton, the 44-year-old senator from Tennessee has spent 15 years in Congress. Inheriting his present seat from his father, if anyone had said that Al Gore would be Bill Clinton's "Veep" choice a year ago, he would have been laughed off Capitol Hill, a senior party official said.

The selection, which was made after an exhaustive bureaucratic procedure, showed a cold calculation of present realities by the Clinton campaign. It immediately disappointed the left wing of the



DEMOCRATIC

considered Senator Bob Graham of Florida whose national reputation is weaker than Senator Gore's, and Ann Richards, the Texas governor, whose personal reputation, however, failed the "spouse test".

The third, and probably least important, reason is that Senator Gore's experience, particularly in foreign policy, the environment and military service, fills gaps in Governor Clinton's. It is doubtful if the electorate is as impressed by that notion as the party professionals are. But some doubters about the Democratic nominee may be reassured by the presence of a strong advocate for the Pentagon and an early supporter of the Gulf war.

In this so-called "year of the woman" there was early pressure for Dianne Feinstein of California. There was a long discussion of how a political outsider would be the perfect response to Ross Perot. But the only outsider everyone could agree on, Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was not available. Mr Jackson kept up a permanent campaign for a representative of ethnic minorities — that is, himself.

For the past few weeks the media have been full of speculation about Mr Clinton's choice. It suited the Democrats for the focus to be on some positive decision by their candidate rather than on the candidate himself. Officials yesterday were optimistic about the smooth running of next week's New York convention and the prospects for at least a superficial unity.

The realists among them also recognised that, when the votes are counted, there has rarely been past evidence that a vice-presidential nominee has affected the outcome. Mr Johnson helped Kennedy a little 32 years ago. This year, whatever today's headlines suggest, Bill Clinton is on his own.

Leading article, page 15



Gore: fills the gaps in Clinton's experience

## Superbait takes fun out of fishing

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

The days when an amateur angler might have to spend all day on a riverbank and catch nothing are over. A scientist from Louisiana has invented an answer to the prayers of impatient or unsporting fisherman — a chemical mix that sends fish into a feeding frenzy and guarantees a catch for the most inexpert fisherman.

The realists among them also recognised that, when the votes are counted, there has rarely been past evidence that a vice-presidential nominee has affected the outcome. Mr Johnson helped Kennedy a little 32 years ago. This year, whatever today's headlines suggest, Bill Clinton is on his own.

Dr Caprio's superbait will

soon be marketed as Gotta Bite. When a dose is squirted into a tank of catfish, usually rather sluggish, they undergo a minor fit, performing aquatic somersaults and munching at anything within range, including gravel rocks, and the glass.

The inventor says the superbait could be used by anglers in a variety of ways: "If you like to fish with a worm, you can just dip it in the goo between casts, or you could use a slow-release mechanism attached to a hook." Dr Caprio is developing more amino-acid cocktails that will have a similarly suicidal effect on other

fish, including trout, pike and bass.

Gotta Bite is the result of collaboration with Tine Valencic, a Slovene animal behaviourist. The invention has been patented by the university and a deal with an American manufacturing company will be announced this week.

A market for Gotta Bite will also be sought among commercial fish farms where fish often lose their appetites after a few months in captivity. A little Gotta Bite mixed with their usual feed, Dr Caprio says, will not only keep non-feeding fish from wasting away but will also make the others

fatter and faster. The same technology could be applied to people to persuade, say, recalcitrant infants to finish their meals.

American angling clubs have reacted with dismay to Dr Caprio's superbait invention, pointing out that, although it takes some of the frustration out of fishing, it removes all the enjoyment.

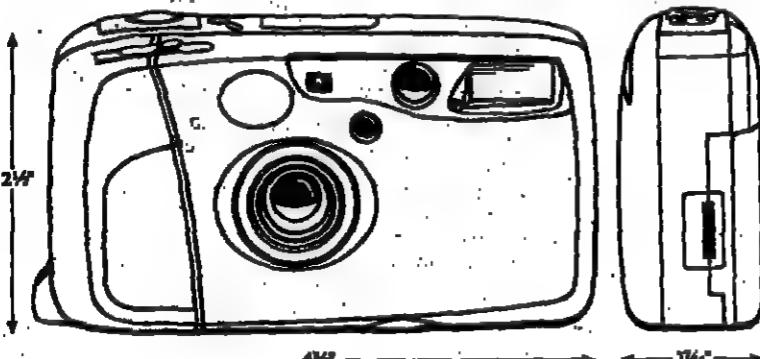
"There is a lot more to fishing than catching fish," says Neal Emerald, co-ordinator of Trout Unlimited, America's largest angling association. "The point is to track down a fish in its own environment and fool him, not to stimulate him with a bunch of chemicals."

## Shuttle ends its record 14-day flight

Cape Canaveral: The space shuttle Columbia landed in Florida yesterday, successfully completing its 14-day research mission and the longest shuttle flight.

The remnants of a Pacific Ocean hurricane, which had delayed the landing for a day, also forced the shuttle to land at Cape Canaveral instead of Edwards air force base in California, as scheduled.

The crew of five men and two women worked on experiments and equipment demonstrations Nasa considered critical for longer missions necessary to construct a space station. They also collected data on their adaptation to weightlessness. (Reuters)



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Weddings, holidays, at home or abroad, the Yashica T4 really is the most perfect of travelling companions.

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With the emphasis very much on quality. Not just quantity.

Starting with the Carl Zeiss Tessar T\* 35mm f3.5 lens.

Which as any pro will tell you, is 'the business'. Especially when it's matched to a shutter which can fire at up to 1/700 sec.

Originally patented in 1903 by Carl Zeiss

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Even with the advance of optical technology the Tessar T\* lens has managed to stay well ahead of the field (a fact recognised by space agency NASA, who have used Carl Zeiss lenses in every manned space probe since 1962).

Nicknamed 'Eagle Eye' after the Bald Eagle which nature has endowed with pin sharp vision, the Tessar T\* captures every detail, every subtlety of colour.

With this camera and this lens, nothing's beyond you.

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All thanks to the T4's multi-beam autofocus system.

A system clever enough to let you get so close you can photograph an A4 document. (Should you ever want to take your work home with you, that is.)

And you don't have to worry about shooting conditions.

At the push of a button, you can choose exactly the right shooting mode for the occasion.

For example, the T4's Red Eye Reduction

Mode. This will greatly reduce the chance of getting 'red eye' in low light by firing off a pre-flash just before the main flash.

If on the other hand you want to take a night scene or create a certain mood using whatever light is available, you'll want the T4's 'night scene no flash mode' which lets you shoot at a slower speed.

But if you want to leave it all up to the T4 you can.

The flash is automatic, not only when the lights are low, but if the T4 believes the subject is too strongly back-lit. It's quite capable of compensating for it all by itself.

Automatically.

There's even a Background Brightness Control which automatically cuts in to enhance backgrounds, if it judges the lighting situations to be a bit tricky.

But if you want to override the automatic flash so that it fires regardless of the overall lighting conditions, you can.

So you can light your subject and retain background detail. Or use it to 'fill-in' any harsh shadows cast by an overhead sun.

You can even put yourself in the picture simply by using the T4's 10 second self-timer.

£120 is the price of the Yashica T4 with its Carl Zeiss lens.

Which just goes to prove that investing in a serious camera doesn't always mean parting with serious money.

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# Pile 'em high, sell 'em cheap

The end of the book monopoly is good for readers, argues Daniel Johnson

**T**he cartel has been declared dead more often than Count Dracula: but every time a legal stake is hammered through its heart, the ghoulish vampire of monopoly power returns to prey on the unwary customer. In this country the lingering mistrust of unfeasted market forces is nowhere more evident than in the book trade.

That trade is monopolised by a cartel in all but name. It consists of the Publishers' Association (three-quarters of the publishers) and a few big retailers led by W.H. Smith. Since 1957 the cartel's legal underpinning has been provided by the net book agreement (NBA), which prevents booksellers from discounting. Yesterday the European Court of Justice upheld the EC Commission's 1988 ruling that the NBA amounts to an illegal restraint of trade. The Publishers' Association has retired to lick its wounds.

It is too soon to be sure whether this judgment really does spell the end of resale price maintenance in the book trade. If it does, as Terry Maher, the chairman of Pentos (which owns Dillons, Hatchards and Claude Gilli), firmly believes, the consequences of this arcane litigation will quickly be felt by consumer and producer alike. The NBA is like the Sunday trading laws: it depends on a mixture of inertia and faith. It was most recently cracked into operation by the book trade cartel only last December, when Mr Maher was obliged by a High Court injunction to stop discounting books covered by the agreement. Books published by Reed Consumer Books, one of the biggest publishing conglomerates (it owns Secker, Heinemann and Methuen), are not covered by the NBA. For the last year Dillons and Waterstone's (now owned by W.H. Smith) have mounted campaigns in the media, based mainly on discounting the Reed imprints.

This skirmish has produced real savings for the consumer: both chains have cut prices by about 25 per cent on a limited range of new titles, bringing the typical new novel down from nearly £1.50 to just over £1. Mr Maher says that his shops have sold twice as many copies of the discounted books as he would otherwise have expected, though his opponents claim that this has more to do with additional publicity than with lower prices. If the High Court injunction was now to be quashed, we could expect to see general discounting on all bestsellers.

Fine for the 50 per cent of us who regularly buy books. But what about the producers? Would the end of the NBA not mean curtains for small bookshops and publishers? Would it not mean a drastic reduction in the number of new titles, with uncommercial but worthy experimental fiction or scholarly monographs the first to suffer? Would not the collapse of the book cartel be bad for the consumer in the long run, after all?

**'Publishers have pushed prices up faster than inflation in recent years, while quality has tended to decline'**

who read only magazines or newspapers.

But the British market, one fifth the size of the American, buys proportionately fewer hardback books than by rights it ought. Publishers and booksellers have pushed prices up faster than inflation in recent years, while quality has tended to decline. The present recession has forced many publishers to shed staff, and some have been absorbed by larger conglomerates. Only a few, however, have responded by pricing books more competitively (for example by publishing new books straight into paperback), while protestations of greater selectivity ("we only publish books we can sell to the Americans") ring hollow when the total number of titles rises even as the volume of sales falls.

The book trade, then, has not adjusted to recession as quickly or as imaginatively as it might have done. Desperation has belatedly gripped the bookmen, but the books need not be threatened. Serious writers have nothing to fear from the NBA's demise, any more than serious journalists had an interest in the restrictive practices which dogged newspapers until 1985.

Suggegishness is the natural condition of a cartel. Break it up, and we shall hear less about surblown books destined only for remaindermen, and rather more about books that will live. Cheap books are the dung without which no high culture can flourish.

...and moreover

**ALAN COREN**

**I**t stands to reason, as Worzel Gummidge used to say in the good old days when a scarecrow was a scarecrow, that the faster things change, the faster nostalgia will burgle in the voids the changes leave. And so rapidly do things change now that by Tuesday, Monday can quite easily seem a good old day. Before long, no doubt, we shall find ourselves, at around 3pm, looking back wistfully at a good old morning, and soon after that we shall probably dab our eyes at the memory of that good old minute which disappeared for ever half an hour before.

Today I went down to my local video-rental shop on West End Green. It wasn't there. What was there was a blackened ruin. Stunned, I stood and trembled, like Vivian Leigh before the remains of Tara, waiting for some faithful old retailer to run from the reeking rubble crying: "Oh, Massa, Massa, de ole video store done burned down, dat Gen'l Sherman done torched de enial stock!", but nobody came, so I pulled myself together and went next door to enquire. A not unreasonable move, given that next door is the West Hampstead Fire Station, and if they didn't know, who would? Getting it out of them mind, might be a bit tricky, there could well be a deal of mutual embarrassment to be hurdled, the fire brigade would not, after all, have had to do much to be on the scene, sticking a hose out of one window and into another ought to have done it, they wouldn't

"It is being investigated," said the fireman. "We have reason to suspect an accelerant may have been employed." He paused: the pause of the insider. "An accelerator is the term we use to describe a device."

"A tin of petrol, as it were?" I offered.

"It is being investigated," repeated the fireman, and went back to polishing his appliance, because you can never tell when you might have to drive somewhere. Not all fires break out next door.

"Nearest video place is in Mill Lane," said the man in the grocer's, because, though my heart was heavy, life had to go on. I thus arrived at the door of The Video Store. A plaque on this door said: "Multiple Rental Retailer of the Year 1991". I went in. It was not like my dear old incinerated Plug Inn, it did not have an owner's cat strapping itself against the till, it had anodised shelving and computers, and when I asked if Empire of the Sun was in stock the manager said he would have to see two documents, eg gas bill and bank statement, before I could be entered on the membership computer, would I fill in this form stating name, address, birthdate, profession, etc, and indicate in the box provided whether I wanted Supercover Tape Damage Protection for life, only £5?

A legacy of military failure is staying America's hand in the Balkans, says Ben Macintyre

# Why GI Joe says no

**P**resident Bush yesterday stood firm by his statement at the Munich summit that he would not send American troops into the battle zone of former Yugoslavia and rejected the pleas of the Bosnian president, Alija Izetbegovic, to disarm Serbia by force.

To most Americans this will seem an eminently sensible decision. It is one of the anomalies of modern geopolitics that the state possessing the most powerful military machine in the world is becoming one of the most reluctant to go to war. Mr Bush persuaded America of the need to fight in the Gulf with the promise that it would not be "another Vietnam": he can give no such assurance about the Balkans.

But the decision not to fight is based less on immediate practicalities than on America's changing view of its role in world affairs, which increasingly harks back to a tradition of isolationism. Americans now need powerful and powerfully simple reasons for committing themselves to battle, and the complexity of the Balkans

conflict does not provide them. At the root of this attitude lies America's recent military record, and in particular the Vietnam war, a vivid scar on the national psyche.

President Bush's wording at Munich is instructive. He would not, he said, send troops into action wherever there is a "hiccup here or there". To describe what promises to be the bloodiest conflict in Europe for nearly half a century as a "hiccup" may seem to be just another example of George Bush's verbal ineptitude, but he was expressing something crassly, a view shared by most Americans.

At its simplest that view is that America will not longer fight unless it is attacked, and since America is no longer under threat it should not fight. America has been transformed from the global policeman, with the self-appointed task of righting wrongs, into the global accountant, totting up the moral

need for force against its economic or political returns.

America's experiences first in Lebanon and then the Gulf have crystallised this attitude. The bombing of the marine barracks in Beirut was one of the most successful acts of political terrorism ever carried out, but the subsequent withdrawal of American troops was greeted not with shame but with undisguised relief.

Unlike Britons, Americans do not generally view the Gulf war as a victory pure and simple — a successful engagement, perhaps, necessary to protect American interests and probably of sufficient emotional force to put General Schwarzkopf in the White House should he ever aspire to it, but hardly worthy of celebration. For some the promise to remove Saddam Hussein has been added to a list of Mr Bush's unfulfilled pledges. In terms of its self-

are just another player, Germany is now running the show."

Defending his low-key performance in Munich, which could not have come at a more critical time in his campaign for re-election, President Bush emphasised America's status as the solitary superpower, but noted that while "people still look to the United States... that doesn't mean the way you lead is to dictate". Nor, say some critics, does it mean you abdicate.

At the moment most Americans are staunchly behind the "Hell no, we won't go" posture of the Bush administration, but it is quite another question how they will feel about the Balkan conflict, and President Bush, if they find other countries winning the military glory and political advantage.

There is, says one newspaper editorial, "a residue of uneasiness" about America's apparently diminishing economic, as well as political and military, role. "Will the end of the Cold war, like the end of the first world war, mean a time in which it's every government for itself?"

# A gleam in the eye of the tiger

Michael Heseltine has been written off prematurely — he may yet surprise his political enemies, writes Peter Riddell



**W**hen Tony Newton, leader of the Commons, told the House earlier this month that the president of the board of trade would, as ever, be in ceaseless action in the following week, MPs duly laughed at his double-edged remark. Nobody doubts Michael Heseltine's energy. Over the past week he has announced a reshaping of his department's operations, jostled in the Commons with Gordon Brown, one of Labour's best debaters, and answered questions in the House — almost as a distraction from his main concerns in Whitehall. All has been carried off with characteristic Heseltine flair, but to what effect?

Mr Heseltine is now an unfashionable figure. Following the Tories' election victory, he is, accidents apart, now never likely to be prime minister. John Major will be party leader for some years, and any successor will be from a generation younger than Mr Heseltine, who is 59. His many rivals among Tory MPs believe he will lose interest. They argue that, after striving for so long to head the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), he has achieved his goal only to discover that it is an empty prize, with a grand title, no money and little to do. His detailed plans for a new industrial policy, outlined in the testament of his wilderness years, *Where There's A Will*, have vanished. Or, as Mr Brown put it brutally in the Commons, "the interventionist d—ger of the rubber chicken circuit

has been brought low, reduced to trophy status. The tiger that was once the king of the jungle is now just the fireside rug — decorative and ostentatious, but essentially there to be walked all over".

But the tiger is far from dead: it is bidding its time. Mr Heseltine is too canny to behave now like the angry jungle beast he was during the Thatcher era. After spending nearly five years out of office following his resignation over the Westland affair, he has no wish to be on the back benches again. Not only does he enjoy office, but he also likes being a member of Mr Major's cabinet.

There was an initial period of wariness after November 1990. Other ministers wondered what Mr Heseltine was up to. His challenge, after all, was what brought down Margaret Thatcher, an achievement he rightly believes allowed the Tories to win last April. After some machinations by Chris Patten, Mr Major and Mr Heseltine developed close working relations, recognising each other's strengths. This was cemented by Mr Heseltine's prominence in the election. He relishes a battle and thrived during the campaign with his carefully prepared speeches, rousing his audiences by his daring and courageousness.

The real reason why Mr

bid in the present review will be below the totals already allowed to the DTI for future years. No minister will be seen to be more supportive of the Treasury's overall economic policy; he talks publicly of the Treasury as a partner.

The debate over the European Fighter Aircraft is unlikely to be a replay of the Westland row of 1985-86. Mr Heseltine has made clear his preference for a British option, rather than buying an American aircraft, but this time he has been caused not to, isolate himself. The prime minister has been publicly sympathetic and, anyway, decisions do not have to be taken for some time.

There will be no premature battles on unfavourable territory. There was no argument with Norman Lamont over the decision to shut down the National Economic Development Office. In his 1987 book he had urged an enlarged role for Ned, but in the intervening years it has been slimmed down and pushed even further to the margins of policy-making. So Ned's limited sponsoring role for industry can be better performed by the DTI, which will also, of course, be under Mr Heseltine's direct control.

He has also skilfully pre-empted any headlines about battles with the Treasury over public spending by announcing that his opening

sees the government not as a provider of subsidies but as an extra adviser, assisting where necessary with foreign governments. He was silent in his announcement last Friday that the DTI would not "slavishly follow" industry's special pleading. A government initiative to shake up some of the more moribund trade associations is likely.

Mr Heseltine's tactic of working in this gradualist way to bring closer co-operation between Whitehall and industry is naturally seen by the Opposition, and especially by some Thatcherite critics, as a surrender of his beliefs. He is being indulged in a cul-de-sac where he can do little harm, or good. It is hard to identify targets by which his approach can be judged in four or five years' time. There will be no repetition of the "inflation rate is judge and jury" which Nigel Lawson offered in his heyday in the mid-1980s. I doubt if Mr Heseltine wants to be judged by the size of the trade deficit. A better parallel might be successful projects such as City Challenge, which Mr Heseltine launched at the environment department, under which councils compete for money for inner-city schemes.

That all sounds rather modest, but then nowadays so is Mr Heseltine. He no longer appears restless for Downing Street. He has adjusted his ambitions. Don't pat your life savings in Heseltine, but the selling has been overtaken.

on TV-am today before leaving to go into pantomime".

"All presenters who come to us in consultation with the BBC and ITV without any experience of meteorological work will have to

attend a course," says a Met Office spokesman. He insists the test is not sexist. "Male presenters who have no experience will sit the exam just the same." And how many untrained weathermen are there on the books? "Well, er, none actually."

Bright intervals

THE weather girls, for so long saddled with a dumb blonde television image, will soon be able to blow away critics with their credentials. The Meteorological Office has introduced stringent testing to ensure that all presenters will be able to tell their isotopes from their isotherms.

Yesterday Sian Lloyd, who has been presenting the weather on ITV for two years, became the first to pass the test, breezing through the arcane questions like a human cyclone. Others are queuing to follow, although they will not include Ulrika Jonsson of TV-am, who while always presenting a warm front has never quite inspired the confidence that she knew what one was. She presents her last forecast

**Cartland at 565**

**B**ARBARA CARTLAND was more relieved than most yesterday that the French blockade had apparently come to an end. Cartland, celebrating a remarkable double — her 91st birthday and completion of her record-breaking 565th novel — is off to Champagne-Ardene next week.

Dressed from head to toe in her favourite pink at the birthday party at South Kensington's new Gallery Hotel, Cartland was in Francophone mood. "French women are so clever, they know how to bring out the romance in a man. And French food is the only food worth eating."

Her latest literary offering, entitled *Wanted, a Royal Wife*, takes Cartland into *The Guinness Book of Records* as the most prolific British author, one ahead of the crime writer John Creasey. But her dearest birthday wish was that the public should take no notice of Andrew Morton's book about the Princess of Wales. "I think that awful man should be taken to the Tower and shot."

• *Many that are first shall be last... Sebastian Coe, used to leading from the front, could well be the last of the new MPs to make his maiden speech. Virtually all of the new intake have now made their speeches.* Coe was due to deliver his on Tuesday night during the finance bill, when the message came through that he was required to attend an even more important delivery. His wife, Nicky, had gone into labour. Coe sprinted off to be present at the birth of his daughter, and now does not know when he will deliver his maiden. "I am too exhausted to even think about a speech at the moment," he says. "My powers of concentration have been drained."



The rebels were privately furious yesterday at their exclusion, although their punishment has had the desired effect. None was prepared to go on the record about their anger. Charles Hendry was typical when he said: "I will not let it spoil my summer recess." Lord St John of Fawsley, the architect of the select committee system, was more forthright. "The whips' role was never meant to extend to this sort of interference. It is not the spirit in which I set the referendum.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 10 1992



## PATTEN'S CHINESE PUZZLE

The last substantive British colony greeted its last and undoubtedly substantive ruler yesterday. Not since Mountbatten went to oversee the end of the Indian empire has a governor faced so hard a task. Chris Patten pledged himself in his inaugural address to represent the interests of the people of Hong Kong "not those of China or of Britain. Seldom can his choice of words have been so careful or significant.

Mr Patten addressed himself to five tasks: safeguarding Hong Kong's institutions, maintaining its economy, improving welfare and law and order, and cultivating trust between Britain, Hong Kong and China. Understandably, as this was an occasion calling for ceremonial platitudes, he did not stress the development of democracy in the colony, the most contentious issue it faces. But each and all of these five aims may embrace that objective implicitly as well, not least the last.

Mr Patten's dilemma is acute. He must know that the people of Hong Kong will find it easier trusting the British, and indeed the Chinese before 1997, if the institutions he has come to safeguard ensure a degree of democratic self-government that will be harder to sweep aside after 1997. This means extending the representation of democratically elected Chinese in his administration. On the other hand, Peking wants no such representation. It is both opposed to individuals such as Martin Lee, whose opposition to the Peking regime is explicit and vocal, and to wider democracy in hands by 1997.

The police and judiciary need reform. No potentially repressive item of legislation should be left on the statute book in 1997, such as the 1930s law on hawkers which Lord Wilson's government used to prosecute pro-democracy demonstrators. If China wants to turn Hong Kong into a dictatorship, it must be forced to do so explicitly, not by using existing colonial laws and then blaming Britain.

This is the reason why democracy is important to Hong Kong: more democracy, explicit democracy, even at the cost of offending an often mercurial Peking regime. Mr Patten is a tough nut. But he is entering the toughest of nutcrackers.

## CLINTON GAINS GORE

An American presidential candidate's choice of vice-presidential running mate is about the only decision open to him. It is thus a measure of his political judgment: Governor Bill Clinton, due to be nominated next Wednesday at the Democratic convention in New York, has been under fire for character flaws throughout the campaign. Yesterday he made the safe and predictable selection of Senator Al Gore of Tennessee.

The decision served its immediate purpose. It was welcomed on all sides. Mr Gore fits Mr Clinton's bill in several ways. He is scandal-free and publicly known as a strong family man. His wife "Tipper" has led protests against obscene records. He is a leading campaigner for environmental protection and has senatorial experience in defence and foreign policy, both areas where Mr Clinton is weak.

In defiance of the conventional wisdom, both the presidential and vice-presidential nominees are from the south: Arkansas and Tennessee are neighbouring states. But the Democrats had nobody to broaden the ticket to provide an appeal across the country except Governor Mario Cuomo of New York. As so often before, he stood aside. The party believes it needs to capture several southern states to win the election in November, as Jimmy Carter, another southerner, did 16 years ago.

There is little evidence that the choice of a vice-presidential nominee has ever made much difference to winning the White House, since Lyndon Johnson was reluctantly recruited to the Kennedy ticket in 1960. In a close election, the most that can be done is to avoid a name that might be a liability. Mr Gore has the experience to become president if Mr Clinton died, and by drawing publicity he can at least move the

## TRADING INSULTS

James Biggworth, DSO, DFC, MC has become the latest victim of political correctness. The flying ace, who once had no qualms about calling African villagers "niggers" and the Chinese "yellow monkeys", has been bowlered in a new edition of Captain W. E. Johns' classic tales of derring-do. Significantly while "niggers", "coons" and "dagos" have been swept away to spare the blushes of modern readers, Biggworth is allowed to insult freely most of Britain's fellow Europeans.

The publisher Random Century, still regards it as satisfactory for Biggworth, Ginger and Algy to go on using Hun, Boche and Jerry as epithets for every passing German. The French are Frogs; and everybody of Mediterranean origin is likely to have dark, greasy hair and to reek of garlic.

Looking closely at the Maastricht treaty it is clear that Brussels is worried about these age-old prejudices. Article 130A of the treaty charges member countries with strengthening "social cohesion" and other clauses talk about the "social solidarity" of member states. Could this prove a prelude in the not-so-distant future for a Brussels commissioner to outlaw Euro-prejudicial words and phrases, just as the French bar any taint of English? Could *Fawlty Towers* be banned for calling Manuel "a greasy dago"? Could reference to jocks, wops and paddys become not just socially unwise but illegal under directive xy2?

A comparative survey of intolerance in Europe published this week puts the Danes and the French as the most easy-going citizens of Europe, while the Portuguese and

meetings with people his predecessor was only prepared to see on formal occasions. He is close to both John Major and Douglas Hurd. He can indicate by his contacts and demeanour that he will have no truck with what is now perhaps unfairly termed the "kowtow" lobby in the Foreign Office.

Since Mr Patten's appointment was announced, China has gone out of its way to impress on him its claims to run Hong Kong and to let him know that the limits of his freedom of action will be ordained in Peking. China has become more aggressive in its demands for prior film censorship and opposes the removal of Hong Kong radio and television from state control. It is making difficult the financing of the new airport and the fixing of the colony's budget.

More serious still, China says it will not permit Mr Patten to ensure that his government is as democratic as possible by appointing elected members to his executive council (where the Chinese have no veto). Mr Patten should indicate that he will not tolerate this intervention and steel himself to make appointments that may enrage Peking.

Even without the complication of relations with Peking, Mr Patten has a monumental task just running Hong Kong's bloated public sector and bureaucracy. The economy is overheating. Inflation has become a risk to competitiveness. There is scope for an ambitious programme of privatisation, for instance in public housing, with the aim of leaving as little as possible in government hands by 1997.

The police and judiciary need reform. No potentially repressive item of legislation should be left on the statute book in 1997, such as the 1930s law on hawkers which Lord Wilson's government used to prosecute pro-democracy demonstrators. If China wants to turn Hong Kong into a dictatorship, it must be forced to do so explicitly, not by using existing colonial laws and then blaming Britain.

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## Deafening silence

*From the Chief Executive of the Royal School of Church Music*

Sir, Dr Sanders (letter, July 6) asks whether there will be any response from various bodies (including this one) to the report of the Archbishops' commission on church music.

The commission met 14 times between July 1988 and October 1991. Its report, which runs to some 240 pages, plus appendices and preliminary material, deserves careful consideration. I expect the council of the RSCM to enjoy a lively discussion of the report later in the year. In the meantime, a review has appeared in the July issue of our magazine, *Church Music Quarterly*.

It is not by the way, entirely accurate to say that the two earlier reports on the same subject gathered dust. The present report itself acknowledges the impetus given by the 1922 report to the foundation of what came to be called The Royal School of Church Music.

Yours etc,  
RICHARD LAWRENCE,  
Chief Executive,  
The Royal School of Church Music,  
Addington Palace, Croydon, Surrey.

## Olympic errors

*From Mr A. B. Smith-Masters*

Sir, I offer an additional point to Philip Howard's list of misconceptions about the Olympic Games ("... and moreover", June 27):

"A celebration of the Olympic Games is called an Olympiad."

Wrong. "Olympiad" is the interval of four years between successive Games.

I am, Sir, yours etc,  
ANTHONY SMITH-MASTERS,  
4 Reed's Corner,  
Marlborough, Wilshire.

## Green towels

*From Mrs D. K. A. Waddington*

Sir, Is it churlish to wonder if the commendable idea of Swiss hotels inviting guests to use towels more than once in order to cut the use of detergents and therefore pollution (Mr K. E. Roberts' letter of July 7) has another bonus: namely, cost-cutting by the hotels?

Yours faithfully,  
DELLERCOUX K. A.  
WADDINGTON,  
10 The Rows, Skelmanthorpe, York.

## Fishing controls

*From the Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food*

Sir, Mr Portus' letter (July 7) makes four main points against the government's new legislation on the conservation of fish: it burdens an industry "besieged by bureaucracy"; it will not be enforced against "flag of convenience" vessels; the fines are unreasonable; and technical conservation and capacity reduction measures will suffice to relieve pressure on stocks.

The complaint against "artificial constraints on an industry besieged by bureaucracy" does not ring true. It is in the nature of fishing that regulation by governments is needed to preserve fish stocks as a resource for use now and in the future. Fisheries are regulated by governments throughout the world. As fisheries minister I constantly get demands from sections of the British fishing industry for more, not less, regulation, often directed against

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Facts, figures and fallacies on dentists' earnings

*From Mr Simon J. F. Lucy*

Sir, The application of a little maths to the figures you report in dentists' pay (July 7) could sway public opinion.

One hundred dentists with an average net income of £41,000 pa earn in total £4.1 million. If 30 such receive £100,000 (or more), and their £3 million is removed from the total, it follows that the remaining 70 earn £1.1 million — i.e., £15,700 pa each.

Should not the public therefore feel that most dentists are relatively poorly remunerated? Is it not in fact the opinion of the public that most dentists earn far too much for a kick off?

It is clear that there is an ongoing debate about dentists' pay, but without a simpler and clearer explanation of the facts as they are now, and as they are proposed by Mrs Bottomley, I for one cannot yet make canine or molar of it.

Yours faithfully,  
SIMON J. F. LUTY,  
23 Burney Street, SE10.  
July 8.

### From the Chairman, British Dental Health Foundation

*From Mr C. W. Eckhardt*

Sir, Your excellent leading article (July 7) on the crisis facing NHS dentistry omits to mention the quality of dental treatment. Dentists for a great deal of their day are not operating in the curative world of health care: they are craftsmen and women, placing in their patients' mouths little manufactured artefacts of their craft. This is a fundamental difference from most other medical services, which aim to return the patient to a state of health.

The antibiotic prescribed by even the most incompetent physician will still cure the patient's infection. In complete contrast, the effectiveness of dental treatment is directly related to its quality, and hence the care and time taken.

There will be enormous variations between dentists and between dental

technicians who construct the crowns, bridges and artificial teeth. The public has few criteria by which to judge among all this variety.

The system pays no more if the dentist chooses to use superior and more expensive materials, or when a better, and dearer, technician has been employed. It is always possible to produce an inferior article for a lower price.

NHS dental fees are already very low in comparison with those in most European countries. What worries conscientious dentists is that it will be impossible to maintain standards if the fees are cut further. They are rightly refusing to go down the road of lower standards.

Yours truly,  
COLIN HALL DEXTER,  
Chairman, the British Dental  
Health Foundation,  
Eastlands Court, St Peter's Road,  
Rugby, Warwickshire.  
July 7.

### From Mr James F. Sullivan

*From Mr Edward Byrne*

Sir, The proposed "clawback" to correct overpayments resulting from what is after all increased effort cannot be entirely fair. Those retiring escape scot-free and those newcomers to practice who need the rewards most are penalised by reduced fees for the hard work of their predecessors.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES F. SULLIVAN,  
4 Uplands Road,  
Bournemouth, Dorset.

### From Mr C. W. Eckhardt

*From Dame Jennifer Jenkins*

Sir, Jeremy Laurnance, in his excellent article, "Put your money where your mouth is" (Life & Times, July 3), refers to the government's proposed 7 per cent cut in dentists' pay. This is incorrect. The 7 per cent is a cut in fees, which is equivalent to a 16 per cent pay cut, as expenses are officially more than 57 per cent of turnover.

In fact, the new fees are much more than 7 per cent lower than current fees. For example, fees for

### Ordination of women

*From Mr John Meade*

Sir, Mr Frank Williams (letter, July 7) adds his voice to those urging the rejection of the ordination of women in the interests of unity. But the disunity already exists.

If by a shortfall in a few votes below the two-thirds mark the General Synod rejects the measure, the size of the majority in favour (defeated by a minority), allied to the fact that the thrust of the proposal is to assume the Church with the world as it now is (and will continue to be), will ensure that the proponents of the ordination of women will fight on. Thus the disunity will continue.

Not only the tide of history but the needs of the Church point towards women's ordination.

The current financial situation shows that those ordained in the future may not be needed as full-time stipendiary persons so much as persons exercising a priestly function part-time in local communities.

There would need to be more of them, and we must not arbitrarily deny ourselves access to the time, talents and dedication of so many who could be called to this task.

Yours faithfully,  
J. M. MEADE,  
Manor Farm House,  
Hedenham,  
Bungay, Suffolk.  
July 8.

### To old to work?

*From the Chairman of the Over-Fifties Association*

Sir, The government, probably alone among western nations, persistently refuses to legislate against age discrimination in employment. The private-sector employer's reluctance to employ older workers (Mr John Waugh's letter, July 4) is easily explained by "final" pay-related occupational pensions.

Under such schemes the employer's liabilities over the final ten years of a worker's employment rise dramatically, and out of all proportion to the cost of employing someone half that age (rather like life insurance premiums).

Thus it would be absurd business economics to pay four times the pension cost for a typist or middle-manager aged 50 than for one aged 25, or to expect a four-fold increase

other parts of the industry.

The limits on days at sea will apply to all vessels which operate under British licences. Flag-of-convenience vessels will be subject to exactly the same rules and penalties as the rest of our fleet. Vessels from other EC member states will be able to fish, as now, only up to the limits set by the quotas which apply to all the main species of fish taken commercially. British vessels will take their full quota.

If it is argued that these measures should not be taken until all EC fishing nations implement absolutely identical measures to meet EC targets, it is a recipe for continued degradation of stocks, even of the non-priority stocks.

Penalties for breaking the rules proposed in the Sea Fish (Conservation) Bill are being increased because the organisations representing the fishing industry have asked that they should be. They constantly argue that penalties in magistrates' courts are ridiculously light, and that

examination have been cut by 8 per cent, those for the most common filling by 10 per cent and those for registering patients by 15 per cent.

Most iniquitous is the 15 per cent cut in fees for making children dentally fit on registration — a strong disincentive to acceptance of the most needy children.

Mrs Bottomley says that the cut should have been 23 per cent. In that case, privatisation or bankruptcy would become inevitable.

Yours sincerely,  
C. W. ECKHARDT,  
65 Thorne Road,  
Doncaster, South Yorkshire.  
July 4.

### Great houses in need of help

*From the President of the Historic Houses Association*

Sir, "Hammer poised over 500 years of history" (July 4); "Names forced to sell houses to cover £800m Lloyd's losses" (July 8); "One of England's great country houses is in danger. Can the government intervene?" (Life & Times, July 8).

These articles, alerting readers to the precarious state of many historic properties, fail to address the fundamental issue.

Annual running costs to maintain and repair historic houses are seldom matched by available income. If our members had not been faced by these annual deficits, many would not have joined Lloyd's. The current situation, which is indeed a crisis, has been exacerbated both by events at Lloyd's and by the recession, but is not caused by them.

Only when historic house owners can irrevocably endow their properties with tax-free maintenance funds, subject to reasonable public access, will the threat of continual sales and dispersals diminish.

The best custodians for these properties are their owners. It is in no one's interest, not the taxpayer's, the tourist's or local community's, that they should be forced to sell. When there are adequate tax-free endowments supporting the properties (not the occupants) then future cyclical depressions will not cause such havoc.

Yours faithfully,  
SHELBOURNE, President,  
Historic Houses Association,  
Bowood House, Calne, Wiltshire.  
July 9.

### Use of County Hall

*From Mr Peter B. Rae*

Sir, Location alone may never have meant much to the success of a place of learning; whereas the wrong one would spell the death of a hotel.

Perhaps Parliament and the London School of Economics should reflect on this when considering the fate of County Hall (letters, July 2, 6). As a Londoner I know that I would prefer to see a hotel in this



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
July 9: His Excellency Mr Stone Kirk was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for Tonga in London.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the High Commission: Mrs Mele Takapauo (Counsellor), Miss Kaimana Alemanau (First Secretary) and Mr Tevita Vaipuna (Third Secretary). Mrs Kirk was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir David Gillmore (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting was in attendance.

Mr Peter Heap was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Brasilia.

Mrs Sprague was also received by Her Majesty.

Mr David Sprague was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as British High Commissioner to the Republic of Sierra Leone. Mrs Sprague was also received by The Queen.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a luncheon party at Buckingham Palace for Members of the Order of Merit.

The following had the honour of being invited: Professor Dorothy Hodgkin and Dr Luke Hodder, the Lord and Lady Zuckerman, Sir Isaac and Lady Hirsh, Sir George Edwards, the Lord Todd, the Lord Cheshire, V.C., and the Baroness Ryder of Warsaw, the Rev Professor and Mrs Owen Chadwick, Professor Sir Andrew and Lady Huxley, Sir Sidney and Lady Nolan, Sir Michael Tippett, Dr. Mrs. Frederick Sir Yehudi and Lady Menuhin, Sir Edward and Lady Gormuch, Sir Ernest and Mrs Penru, Dame Cicely Saunders, Professor the Lord and Lady Porter, the Baroness Thatcher, Dame Joan Sutherland, Professor and Mrs Francis Crick, Sir Edward Ford, Secretary and Registrar of the Order of Merit.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were present at an afternoon party in the garden of Buckingham Palace given by the Central Council of Physical Recreation. The Prince Edward was also present.

Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard were on duty. The Bands of the Welsh Guards and the Royal Anglian Regiment played selections of music during the afternoon.

The Duke of Edinburgh opened the sixth New Designers' Exhibition at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, Islington Green, London N1, this morning.

Lieutenant Commander Malcolm Sillars, RN, and Wing Commander Christopher Moran, RAF, were in attendance.

His Royal Highness, Patron, London Federation of Boys' Clubs, this evening attended a Reception at Goldman Sachs International Ltd, 133 Fleet Street, London EC4, and later visited the Canterbury, Oxford and Bermondsey Club, 3 Webb Street, London SE1, the Lynn Athletic Club, Wells Way, London SES, and the Ethelred Estate Community Youth Centre, Lombard Street, London SE11.

Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in attendance.

July 9: The Prince Edward, Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this evening held a Meeting at Buckingham Palace.

July 9: Princess Royal, this morning visited Leighton Hospital, Crewe, in celebration of their twentieth anniversary and opened the new CAT Scanner. Her Royal Highness was received by the Hon Michael Flower (Vice-Lieutenant of Cheshire).

The Princess Royal, Patron, the Quarry Bank Mill Trust Ltd, afterwards opened the new Interactive Gallery "Waterforce" at

Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, Wilmslow, Cheshire.

Her Royal Highness, Patron,

the Butler Trust, this afternoon visited HM Prison Risley, Warrington Road, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire.

The Countess of Lichfield was in attendance.

The Prince Royal, Com-

mandant-in-Chief, St John Ambulance and Nursing Cadets,

attended the Silverway Summer

Banquet at Brocket Hall, Wel-

wyn, Hertfordshire.

Mrs Victoria Legge-Bourke

was in attendance.

**CLARENCE HOUSE**

July 9: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this morning vis-

ited the International Flower

Show at Hampton Court Palace.

The Lady Margaret Colville

was in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**

July 9: The Prince of Wales, Duke

of Cornwall, this morning re-

ceived the Secretary of the Duchy

(Mr David Landale).

His Royal Highness this after-

noon visited Halifax and was

received by Her Majesty's Lord

Lieutenant for West Yorkshire

(The Lord Ingrow).

The Prince of Wales visited Square Capel, Windring Road, Finally His Royal

Highness, Patron, Burrell's The

Children's Museum, opened "Edu-

cation" at Discovery Road.

Lieutenant Commander Robert

Fraser was in attendance.

July 9: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today vis-

ited Mersyside and was received

by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant

for Merseyside (Mr Henry

Couson).

Her Royal Highness opened the

Headquarters Building of the

Princess Service Society in

Liverpool. The Princess Mar-

garite visited the Queen Elizabeth

Hospital for Children, Hackney,

this afternoon, and opened the 125th Anniversary

celebrations in Haggerston Park.

The Lady Margaret Colville

and Major Sir Ralph Anstruther,

were in attendance.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**

July 9: The Duke of Kent this

afternoon opened the Aids Trust

National Assessment Centre,

Carbone Lane, Poole, and was

received by Her Majesty's Lord

Lieutenant for Dorset (The Lord

Digby).

His Royal Highness, President,

later visited the Royal National

Lifeboat Institution Head-

quarters, Poole, and inspected

the new Fast Afloat Boat. The Duke

then visited the Army Trials

Development Unit, Bovington

Camp, Wareham, Dorset. Captain

the Honourable Tom Coke was

in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent this after-

noon took the Salute at the Royal

Tournament at Epsom, Surrey,

London SW5. Mrs David Napier

was in attendance.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE**

July 9: Princess Alexandra today

visited Greater Manchester and

was received by Her Majesty's Lord

Lieutenant for Greater

Manchester (Colonel John Tim-

mins). Her Royal Highness

opened the Sale Grammar School

at Trafford and, subsequently,

opened the new Hydrotherapy

Pool at the Bethesda School, Cheshire.

The Lady Mary Mumford was

in attendance.

**GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES**

**TAME** - The family of the late

Margaret Lucy Tame would

like to thank everyone who

sent cards and flowers to

the late Katherine and

Robert Tame, a son of

the late Margaret Lucy Tame.

**DEATHS**

**PEARCE** - On July 6th, 1992, in Newquay, Cornwall, a

daughter, Elizabeth Anne,

and a son, Peter, a son of

the late Margaret Pearce.

**THOMAS** - On June 27th,

to Jane and Mart, a beautiful

daughter, Lara Alice, a

sister for Amabel.

**TOMLINSON** - On July 7th,

to Jane and Settoku and

Peter, a son, Jocelyn Mark.

**TUCKER** - On July 6th at

Guildford, in Julia and

Stephen, a daughter, Alice Katherine,

a sister for Amabel.

**WILLIAMS** - On July 6th,

in Newquay, Cornwall, a

son, Peter, a son of

the late Margaret Pearce.

**DEATHS**

**TURNER** - On July 3rd, to

inife, Weir, and

William, a son, another brother

for Freddie, Munchie and Harry.

**BYRNE** - On July 7th, very

peacefully, Doctor Joseph

Byrne, Practitioner for 50 years

in Penwy, Wiltshire. Deary

husband of Gertrude and

Kevin, father-in-law to David

and Pauline, son of Anne,

THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

## OBITUARIES

## FRANCIS PERRIN

Francis Perrin, head of the French atomic energy commission, 1951-70, and father of the French atomic bomb, died on July 4 aged 90. He was born in Paris on August 17, 1901.

IN HIS twenty years as high commissioner for atomic energy Francis Perrin gave France its independent nuclear deterrent (*its force de frappe*) and its nuclear power station programme. Paradoxically he was never particularly enthusiastic about a French atom bomb, retaining to the end of his life strongly left-wing socialist, pacifist and atheist principles. But when France's prime minister Pierre Mendès France decided to launch the French atom bomb project in 1954 he carried Perrin with him through his argument that nuclear-armed nations had greater weight in the world's deliberations than those which had no bombs. In the climate of international distrust of the 1950s in which no nuclear limitation treaties seemed at all likely the argument was decisive with Perrin.

Francis Perrin grew up in a background from which it would have been difficult to emerge as anything other than a nuclear physicist. His father was Jean-Baptiste Perrin whose study of the Brownian motion of minute particles confirmed the atomic nature of matter. This feat earned him the 1926 Nobel prize for physics; Léon Blum called him the "French Einstein". In Paris the Curie's were next door neighbours in the Rue Kellermann and the two families took their summer holidays together in Brittany. Pierre and Marie Curie's son-in-law Frédéric Joliot-Curie was a childhood friend and, later, scientific mentor (and he subsequently predated Perrin as head of the French atomic energy commission).

In this intense atmosphere Perrin's development was rapid. He took a doctorate at 21 and after working on fluorescence collaborated, from 1932, on nuclear physics with Joliot-Curie. At the age of 34 he was a professor at the Sorbonne. In these years Perrin contributed significantly to the understanding of



chain reactions. It was a brilliant era for French nuclear physics. Besides the Curie's, men like von Halban, Joliot-Curie out of sight into the Resistance; Perrin to the United States. For two years he taught at Columbia University but at the same time kept in close touch with the Free French headquarters in New York. When the Free French cause began to prosper in a tangible manner he returned across the Atlantic to become a deputy in the provisional assemblies of Algiers and then Paris.

At the end of the war he returned

Kowalski (with the valuable French reserves of heavy water) to Britain; Colette, Perrin married in 1926 constituted a pool of talent which very nearly carried France to the atomic bomb in the years before 1939.

The outbreak of war obviated such a possibility. Perrin joined the army and became an officer in a searchlight battery. When France fell her nuclear physicists fled and were dispersed: von Halban and

Perrin retained his chair at the Collège de

to academic life as professor of physics at the Collège de France. In the meantime Joliot-Curie (who with his wife Irène Curie had won the 1935 Nobel prize for physics) had become head of the nascent French atomic energy authority. But by 1951 his strongly-held pacifist views and his membership of the Communist party made his position untenable. He was dismissed but specified at the same time that his friend Perrin should succeed him.

Fortunately for France this council was headed and Perrin took over the higher direction of the French effort to produce nuclear energy for warlike and peaceful purposes for the next twenty years. France had been totally excluded from the American and British nuclear programmes of the second world war and was hence, in spite of the pioneering pre-war work of its scientists, left stranded and alone. Perrin's role was twofold. The man of science led research while the administrator organised programmes and lobbied the French government ceaselessly for an increase in the numbers of scientists and the funding of facilities.

Once Mendès France had given the go-ahead for the production of a French atom bomb progress was swift and the first test was conducted at the Gauville's say-so in the Sahara early in 1960. Characteristically, Perrin refused to wax chauvinistic about this achievement and in a burst of courageous candour admitted that the French test added "nothing" to scientific knowledge. Indeed his role as the very pinnacle of matters so germane to French security never prevented him from expressing himself. For example, he took part in the left-wing demonstration in Paris against the Algiers revolt in 1958. But he never allowed his politics to interfere with his work.

If the government of the Fourth Republic wanted a bomb, he would see that they got it.

Throughout his period at the head of the French atomic energy commission, which also saw the exponential growth of France's atomic power station programme, Perrin retained his chair at the Collège de

France, thus remaining closely in touch with the world of academic research. His intellectual honesty earned him a high reputation in the international community of nuclear scientists. At the second UN conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy at Geneva in 1958 he astonished the 6,700 participants by recommending the unreserved disclosure of even the most precious nuclear secrets, claiming that it was fanciful to imagine that secrecy was possible anyway. This earned him a standing ovation from his distinguished audience.

After his retirement from his government and academic posts in 1970 he became more openly sceptical about the nuclear path down which his country was treading.

When French testing moved to the Pacific he said it ought to be halted and that France should sign the nuclear test ban treaty. In 1973, in a joint statement with Alfred Kastler, director of research at France's national centre of scientific research, he claimed that the much-prized *force de frappe* "could hardly have a dissuading power... if we used it a quarter of an hour later France would no longer exist".

In 1980 he issued strong public warnings about French nuclear cooperation with Iraq and in 1986 caused another sensation when he admitted that France had given Israel nuclear technology to enable it to build its own atomic bomb.

These were not, perhaps, statements of a sort to be expected from the man whose knowledge and energy had enabled France to stake a claim to be heard with respect even by the superpowers in the councils of the world. But they were of a piece with a mentality which never stalled and with his belief in freedom as a practice, not merely as a concept. Perrin remained a radical to the end. His academic eminence, his services to his country and his Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour notwithstanding, one of the honours of which he remained most proud was his presidency of the Union of Atheists.

There were two sons and a daughter of his marriage to Colette Auger.

## APPRECIATIONS

## Lord Winterbottom



THE career of Ian Winterbottom (obituary, July 8) was of interest, in that it mirrored the changing relationship of political parties to the English whig-liberal tradition. In defining the Victorian whip's injunction to "damn your principles, stick to your party", he remained consistently loyal to that tradition. As such, he earned his footnote in the history of the parties. He was also largely vindicated — for the great lesson of English politics, as John Major demonstrated in April, is that the party best able to harness the English liberal instinct can expect realisation by to enjoy office.

Although raised in the Georgian splendour of the Northamptonshire house of the 18th century Earls of Halifax, he was taught early to combine a genuine affection for the idiosyncrasies of ordinary people with a zest for business.

His father, who had declined a peerage offered by Lloyd George's coalition government, had preferred to live as a country gentleman serving as High Sheriff and Justice of the Peace. Ian, however, while living in Northamptonshire, was true to his Yorkshire roots, possessing a liberal optimism that governed both his commercial enterprises and his faith in the inherent capacities of the mass of the people.

It was not idiosyncratic. therefore, when he accepted Lord Pakenham's invitation to join him at the Ministry of Aviation, nor when he became a Labour MP and, subsequently, junior minister in the Lords.

He was equally true to his whig-liberal faith when he subsequently formed part of the exodus to the SDP and then finally came to rest in John Major's Conservative party. Judged by his own creed, he was right to maintain that it was not he, but the parties, that had changed.

The same English liberal

tradition, with its combination of hard-headed realism, a disposition to survival and a faith in a sense of humour as the key to solving any difficulty, however daunting, now finds its fullest expression in John Major's Conservative party. It is not surprising therefore, that this is where Ian finally found his home.

Toby Horton

interaction of building and landscape.

With Richard Ingrams and

Archbishop Runcie

he sounded in your columns a clarion call to save the churches of the Marsh (Letters, December 5, 1981), a call which led directly to the formation of this trust, and which played no small role in its success. In later years he generously donated to the trust the copyright in a remarkable series of postcard views of Marsh churches. His impact upon our tiny cause in one small corner of England is itself a spotlight upon the magnitude of his many and diverse successes.

Nicholas Hudd

## John Piper

MUCH of what you say in the obituary of John Piper (June 30) — his enthusiasm, his love of England, his generosity, his faith, his vision — are encapsulated by his vice-presidency of Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust.

As chairman of the council of that body, I hope I may find space in your columns to express our immense debt to him. John Piper was a maternal influence in bringing to the attention of a generation the singular and evocative landscape of the Marsh, using both word and image in his book *Romney Marsh* (1950, King Penguin) to portray the

magnitude of his many and diverse successes.

Tony Hudd

## Lord Kearton

I WONDER if I might add a word to your obituary of Lord Kearton (July 6) which, excellent though it was, did not mention his considerable contribution to East-West commercial relations?

Both as chairman of Courtaulds, which did substantial business with the USSR and Eastern Europe, and latterly as chairman of the East European Trade Council, Frank Kearton was widely known and respected throughout the area.

In his latter capacity I had the privilege of accompanying him on a number of his forays behind the Iron Curtain, as then was, and never ceased to marvel at his brilliant touch in dealing, with immense tact and charm, with even the most precarious situations.

It is perhaps a measure of Frank's success that when he relinquished the chairmanship of Courtaulds he received a telex of enormous length from Nikolai Patolichev, then redoubtable Soviet minister of foreign trade, recalling past achievements and wishing him well at BNOC.

Patolichev's message may have been sentimental but it spoke volumes — for both men:

Anthony Hore

## July 10 ON THIS DAY 1894

Incurred responsibility in regard to the riot.

They were so held in accordance with a constant principle of college administration — a principle recognised in Oxford as necessary for the maintenance of order under special conditions of college life. For a college was born in mind, is not like a street in which the police keep order. It more nearly resembles a private house.

At Christ Church

the gates are closed so strangers are admitted, save in company or on the warrant of their names.

The question as to the initiative in the riot I have kept separate from the facts which formed my ground of action. I cannot, however, accept in regard to it the view put forward by the signatories to the letter, since I have strong evidence from more than one source in support of the belief that the riotous scene in Peckwell did not begin before the appearance of the Bullingdon party.

Rustication for five weeks was far less than the punishment which would have been inflicted on any one who was proved to have been engaged in such a work of destruction; and I did my best to meet those cases in which this rustication involved any peculiar hardship.

Still, it may be thought by some that I might well have acted more leniently. But the exercise of leniency in the discharge of a great trust must be checked by due regard to the conditions of the time. For some months past our real work here has been hampered by disturbances which very few like and very many hate. The events of May 11 were a flagrant instance of this misconduct, and thus the case was one in which the leniency I should always wish to use was barred by duty towards the House and towards those who

were to work there.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

FRANCIS PAGET, Dean of

Christ Church,

Christ Church, Oxford,

July 9.

## GORDON WATKINS



Gordon Watkins was a natural journalist — interested in everything, inquisitive about everything and enthusiastic in passing on what he had found out in the most interesting way: he had all the instincts of the village gossip channelled into a professional occupation.

*Picture Post* had taught him how to use words to complement pictures and he swiftly learned to adapt the printed word to television's demotic style of language — language intended to be heard as conversation rather than read as prose. He had very little to do with the technical aspects of the medium, such as studio and film direction. He devoted his energies to the craft of story-telling and the skills of interviewing.

The production team, which was headed by Donald Baverstock and included Watkins, was the first to make television programmes on the run and pioneered techniques termed "conversations enhanced by movement".

Watkins' contribution to the programme's success. *Tonight* was the first programme to tackle effectively the difficulties of television interviewing. The five or six questions posed in each studio confron-

tation would be the result of hours of intensive research and argument by the interviewer and a producer.

Every morning Watkins was enthusiastically and energetically engaged in chasing up film, still-pictures and potential interviews to be used in the programme for any anniversary they could think of and it led to another of Watkins's successes.

After seven years with *Tonight*, Watkins was commissioned along with Tony Esse to produce *The Great War*, at the time the most extensive and expensive documentary the BBC had tackled. He brought to it not just the skills of a picture journalist but insights into war drawn from his experiences as a wartime captain and set standards

equal to those of a scholarly historian. Watkins recruited a team of historians and acted as editor.

First transmitted in 1964, *The Great War* distilled a conflict lasting 1,551 days into 17 hours of television. Although, perhaps inevitably, the series provoked lively debate between old generals and military historians, Watkins's spare and literate script managed to avoid oversimplification without becoming bogged down in detail and was well regarded as well-balanced.

As he progressed up through the BBC Watkins became more and more an editor and a developer of new writers, or writers new to the medium. He instigated a series of dramatised documentaries on a selection of famous explorers which won two BAFTA awards. His final large-scale project was *Ireland — a television history* which he completed in 1981.

His success was due as much to his personal as his professional qualities: his generosity of spirit, his capacity for instant friendship and the mischievous twinkle in his eye that made him such a well loved colleague also made him an effective and respected teacher.

He is survived by his wife, a son, two daughters and a foster son.

## Church news

July 10 Stephen Pickering, Chaplain, Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, to be Priest-in-charge, St Bartholomew's, Netherthorpe (Sheffield).

The Rev Mark Inman, formerly Chaplain to HM Colony, Hollies Bay, to be Priest-in-charge, Alderson w Ramsbotham and Bawsey, Shotton w Sutton (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Alan Jefferis, Assistant Curate, Parkstone, St Peter w Poole, and St Edmund Team Ministry, Poole (Salisbury).

The Rev Nigel Lloyd, Rector, Lytchett Matravers, to be Team Rector, Parkstone St Peter w Branksome and St Edmund Team Ministry (Carlisle).

The Rev Canon John Giles, Canon Residentiary at Sheffield Cathedral (Sheffield); to be Vicar, St Peter's, Farbrough (Guildford).

The Rev John Casselton, Vicar, St Edmund, Epsom, St John the Evangelist, Poole (Salisbury).

The Rev Canon John Giles, Canon Residentiary at Sheffield Cathedral (Sheffield); to be Vicar, St Peter's, Farbrough (Guildford).

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# BUSINESS TIMES

FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

**SPORT**  
30-34

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

MARTIN BEDDALL

SIB considered closing regulator

## Imro attacked for Maxwell funds failure

BY ANGELA MACKAY

THE Securities and Investments Board yesterday condemned the role played by Imro, the pension funds regulator, in the Maxwell affair and admitted that it had considered closing it.

Despite Imro's obvious failure as a regulator of the Maxwell funds, SIB said it could continue as pension funds monitor as long as its function was strengthened. SIB, which watches over self-regulatory bodies, said it did consider "withdrawing recognition" from Imro.

While Imro shouldered most of the blame for not detecting serious breaches of practice at Bishopsgate Investment Management and London and Bishopsgate International Investment Management, two companies involved in running Maxwell pension funds, SIB said it had to reconsider whether its "way of carrying out its supervisory role was appropriate" and admitted there was a "shortfall in regulatory standards at Imro which SIB had not identified".

The Maxwell Pensioners Action Group said it was "staggered" that both Imro and SIB had concluded that Bishopsgate Investment Management had been properly admitted to membership of Imro. There had been "a clear failure of self-regulation."

Andrew Large, SIB's new chairman, said action was

being taken on three fronts to tighten regulation after the scandal in which the late Robert Maxwell pilfered more than £450 million from his employees' pension funds.

In a written reply to a parliamentary question, Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said he had ordered Mr Large to review how SIB carries out its responsibilities under the Financial Services Act 1986. Mr Lamont said the government was "very seriously concerned" about the shortcomings identified in the pensions watchdog.

Mr Lamont said: "The Maxwell affair was wholly exceptional — the vast majority of pension funds have served their members very well... but the government is determined that all the lessons of the Maxwell affair must be learned and implemented."

A spokesman for the Maxwell Pensioners Action Group said he was disappointed that SIB was not publishing the Imro report in full. He added that there had been "a clear failure of self-regulation" and it was time the government made "appropriate reparation to those pensioners who had been defrauded".

Michael Meacher, shadow secretary of state for social security, said the SIB report acknowledged that the government's regulatory regime failed at every level and called

Leading article, page 15  
Last chance, page 23

TODAY IN BUSINESS  
FREE SHARE  
ABBIE NATIONAL  
Abbey National is seeking "lost" shareholders in the former building society who are eligible for free shares  
Page 21

BANK BACK-UP  
Improved efforts by banks to support troubled firms may have helped reduce the number of insolvencies in the second quarter  
Page 21

BUY BUZZ  
Jeyes Group, known for its household cleaning and insect-killing products, goes on the acquisition trail in Germany  
Tempus, page 20

POWER SURGE  
Scottish Hydro-Electric, the privatised power company, has exceeded City forecasts on profits and dividends  
Tempus, page 20

TOMORROW



Nothing pensioners can say or do will make MGN's new chairman, Sir Robert Clark, lose his cool at the annual meeting. Carol Leonard writes

## O&Y cornered by Li Ka-shing move

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

LI KA-SHING, the Hong Kong property billionaire once regarded as a white knight for Olympia & York Developments, builders of London's Canary Wharf, has taken steps that could force Olympia & York into the American bankruptcy courts.

Mr Li served formal notice on the Canadian developer that its \$57.5 million mortgage on a New York building is in default.

Mr Li took over that debt from another creditor eight months ago in a move seen to give the cash-starved Olympia & York some breathing space. The mortgage is on Olympia & York's Broad Street, a property in which Mr Li also has a 49 per cent equity stake.

Olympia & York officials scheduled an emergency meeting with Mr Li in Hong Kong this week to coincide with a series of meetings in Tokyo. Olympia & York says these are to keep Japanese creditors abreast of the American debt restructuring plans.

The property group, two thirds of which is being run by the equivalent of bankruptcy court officials in London and Canada, says it is not under any immediate pressure from creditors.

The bankruptcy filing by

Olympia & York's parent company in Canada has put it in technical default on all its American mortgages, estimated at \$5.9 billion. Mr Li's formal notice is one of a number lodged by creditors. Such moves allow the creditors the option of recovering debts through the courts and forcing Olympia & York's American arm into bankruptcy.

Bank sources say that while most of the main creditors continue to be cooperative, the Svenska Handelsbanken of Sweden, and Bank Leumi of Israel, have shown signs of being restive.

Meanwhile, the property group managed to stave off a \$35 million debt deadline that falls due today and could have been called by JMB Realty, the property group based in Chicago.

The group is allowing Olympia & York to restructure the loan.

Olympia & York has also managed to retain an option to remain involved with a San Francisco development on which it has spent \$25 million.

Despite failing to pay \$2 million on the project last week, the group has been given eight months to buy it back in.

Mr Lamont said the ERM was good for recovery, good

## Rank Organisation



Pinning down the payment: Sir Patrick Meaney, chairman, left, and Michael Gifford held the dividend yesterday

## Shephard confronts Treasury over training programmes

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GILLIAN Shephard, the employment secretary, is on course for a confrontation with the Treasury over the introduction of long-term contracts for training organisations.

Mrs Shephard is set to promise heads of Britain's Training and Enterprise Councils that she will end

uncertainty over funding which Tees claim has hampered their effectiveness.

She also intends to introduce a payment-by-results scheme, under which the 82 Tees in England and Wales will be paid according to their success in producing well qualified youngsters able to retrain.

Both ideas are anathema to the Treasury, which prefers finite commitments to funding over a single year. But even though Whitehall insiders insist this year's public spending battles between ministers are tougher than ever, Mrs Shephard, a former Treasury minister, appears confident she can persuade her former civil servants of the need for a new strategy.

Yesterday, the Treasury still appeared to be steadfastly resisting.

The promise to pay by results was apparently also opposed by a Treasury wary of its liabilities under such an open-ended regime. A shift to long-term funding should remove much of the uncertainty.

which appeared to threaten the effectiveness of the Tees this spring.

Ten Tees in the London region have only just settled their funding for the year that started in April. They sought extra cash because of a sharp increase in demand for training resulting from the recession.

Disputes over funding have also soured relations with many of the businessmen who participate part-time in management of Tees.

Many company directors have found their ability to devote time to Tees reduced by difficulties at their own companies that have been caused by the recession.

In a speech in Birmingham to 500 Tees chairman and chief executives, Mrs Shephard said she will maintain the government's commitment to Tees.

However, she made plain that she is unhappy with the standards of some Tees in delivering the government's Youth Training scheme under contract.

## Rank pegs payout at half time

BY MICHAEL TATE  
CITY EDITOR

RANK Organisation is holding its interim dividend at 10.25p after restricting a fall in pre-tax profit to £2 million, for a £94 million total in the 28 weeks to May 16.

The contribution from the company's stake in Rank Xerox, the office machine group, fell from £80.1 million to £71.7 million, with the Japanese Fuji Xerox joint venture particularly hard hit.

The film and television operations, and the leisure activities, including the Hard Rock Cafes, turned in higher profits. But in the recreation division, better returns from the bingo clubs were outweighed by lower casino profits and a £2 million loss on amusement machines as the recession emptied Britain's public houses. Trading conditions generally were "poor and patchy," said Mike Gifford, chief executive of Rank.

Admissions at the Odeon cinema chain were 10 per cent lower during the half year.

Tempus, page 20

## Sugar sweetens with £200 offer

BY DEREK HARRIS



Sugar: "user-friendly"

ALAN Sugar, whose early Amstrad machines brought home computing to the masses, is price-cutting his way into a new market. Yesterday, he announced a user-friendly slimline portable computer-cum-personal organiser for the cut-throat price of £199.99.

The NC100 Notepad is claimed to bridge the gap between personal organisers in the same price range and sophisticated portable computers costing £1,000 or more — although prices are falling.

Mr Sugar, Amstrad's chairman, believes that by employing simple hardware but by using sophisticated software, the computer notepad will yield "much better" profit margins.

Recession has forced makers of business machines to discount fiercely on prices.

Mr Sugar said: "It's a bloody battlefield out there although this does not mean we are

telephone numbers and diary dates as well as about 12,000 words of notes, memos or any other word processing they might need as it can be converted to most printers.

Mr Sugar, who says his notepad is being a computer but helps when designing a machine for non-computer-literate customers, says he uses the notepad for memos and letters when he is away from the office, especially at airports.

Amstrad says there is additional hardware on the market that would allow data in the notepad to be transmitted to other computers by telephone line.

The A4 size of the notepad computer allows it to have a full-size keyboard. In that way, it scores over smaller personal organisers, Mr Sugar said. He expects roving executives to use the notepad and the BBC Basic language has been incorporated because the educational market is also seen as important.

The Amstrad sales target is

the 80 per cent of the possible user population that it believes has never had the nerve to use a computer. This is why Mr Sugar sees the notepad doing what his original word processor did in opening up a new market.

The notepad will be available in time for Christmas and Amstrad is to spend £3 million on an autumn advertising promotion.

The slogan will say: "If you can't use this machine in just five minutes you'll get your money back."

Mr Sugar said: "A first year sale of 200,000 to 300,000 would have an impact on the Amstrad bottom line. There isn't a big risk exposure here because the initial launch costs can be recovered very quickly."

"This is a hunch about the market rather than being based on grand market research. The notepad will be a testbed for the subsequent products based on a user-friendly approach."



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German mark 2.8729 (-0.0005)  
Exchange Index 92.6 (-0.2)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share 1913.9 (+22.8)  
FT SE 100 2497.9 (+25.3)  
New York Dow Jones 3317.83 (+24.58)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 16848.66 (+24.40)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 1913.9 (+22.8)  
FT SE 100 2497.9 (+25.3)  
New York Dow Jones 3317.83 (+24.58)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 16848.66 (+24.40)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%  
3-month Interbank: 10%-10%  
5-month eligible bills: 9%—9%  
US: Prime Rate: 6%  
Federal Funds: 5%  
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.22-3.20%  
30-year bonds: 104%—104%\*

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London: £1.6654  
DM 2.8753  
Fr 2.2244  
FF 2.2257  
E 2.2247  
Yen 2.2255  
Index 92.6  
ECU 20.71158  
SCF 21.749015  
London Foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing: £19.57  
Basis 5547.50-349.30  
£183.00-183.50  
New York  
Comex: \$ 348.25-348.75\*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (JUL) ..... \$19.75/bbl (\$19.95)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.3 May (1987=100)  
Denotes midday trading price

## Midland & Scottish agrees to run oilfield

MIDLAND & Scottish Resources has agreed in principle to take over as operator of the Emerald oilfield in the North Sea and expects production to begin soon.

Operatorship of the field will be transferred to MSR from Sovereign Oil and Gas, now a subsidiary of Neste Oy, subject to approval by the trade department. MSR is also negotiating to acquire other partners' interests in the field for the life of the field.

The agreement follows the end of a dispute with Davy Offshore, now a subsidiary of Trafalgar House, over a contract to provide rig facilities for the Emerald field. MSR will charter the Emerald facilities for the life of the field.

MSR announced pre-tax losses of £46.4 million for 1991, against profits of £7.8 million in the previous year, after an exceptional charge of £37.5 million relating to an impairment in the book value of the group's investment in the Emerald field. Losses were 22p a share, compared with earnings of 5p, and there is again no dividend. The shares slipped 2p to 17p.

Losses arise from the delay in the completion of the Emerald field facilities, which meant no oil could be produced from the field all year. The exceptional charge has been calculated based on oil prices and exchange rates prevailing at the end of last year. Turnover rose from £2.97 million to £9.7 million, but operating losses increased from £1.9 million to £9.03 million. Finance costs were £423,000, against income of £95,000.

Martyn Deamer, MSR's chairman, said: "The outlook for the company post first oil is bright. Having bitten the bullet on the costs of the Emerald development we can look forward to a positive return from Emerald and from our other interests."

MSR is acquiring acreage off the east coast of Canada, receiving royalties through a subsidiary, Icar Resources. A new production platform, being built in Italy, was said to be progressing well.

The company has identified other oilfields in the North Sea and overseas considered suitable for development once revenues from the Emerald field begin to flow.

## Pulling Rank out of recession

AS A leisure stock, Rank Organisation's problem is that it matters less whether Hollywood has a new blockbuster for its cinema screens or whether the Pontefract pensioner has enough in her purse to purchase a bingo card this week, than the depth of Japan's economic crisis.

Rank's share of Rank Xerox was still responsible for more than half the group pre-interest profit of £14.4 million, despite a 10.5 per cent decline to £71.7 million. But it included a 23 per cent setback at Fuji Xerox, and even if the worst fears of Mike Gifford, chief executive, are not realised, the short-term outlook is not promising. The leisure operations are scarcely impervious to economic conditions, but at least Rank has some control, and the past six months have been negotiated as well as might have been expected.

At £94 million, pre-tax profits were only £2 million short of the previous year, and would have been better without the conversion of preference capital into debt. Five points came off the tax charge at 40 per cent, because of the decline in the RX contribution and the tax losses available on the Universal Studios joint venture, which turned a £4.5 million loss into a £3.1 million profit. Combined with the preference share redemption, this inflated earnings per share 26 per cent to 14.2p.

Film and television profits improved despite the absence of a movie blockbuster in the first six months and another £6 million loss on the American video distribution business, where new and better systems will not begin to impact until the autumn.

The outlook for holidays is dampened by the price-cutting in the industry, though hotels have picked up, especially in London.

Bingo clubs are riding the recession better than the casinos while the amusement machines lost £1 million as the recession emptied the pubs.

At £989 million, debt still looks less comfortable than the board would like, even if well within the group's facilities, but the overall performance must be seen as a success. If Rank can make the £260 million that Peter Joseph of Smith New Court looks for, to produce 44p of



Cleaning up in Germany: Jimmy Moir, chief executive of Jeyes, which is buying Globol for £18.1 million

### Scottish Hydro-Electric

WHILE the reporting season for electricity companies south of the border has taken up most of the sector's attention, the share prices of the two Scottish companies have been drifting apart gradually for the first time since they were floated a year ago.

Scottish Hydro-Electric has always been the City favourite in preference to the larger Scottish Power, but that preference has not been a strong one until recently. But by the time Hydro capped the reporting season with its annual figures, the gap had widened to almost 20p.

That gap looks hard to justify, at least on the basis of Scottish Power's stronger cash generation and consequent hefty reduction in gearing from 51 to 18 per cent last

year. The price rise also offered investors, who have paid 170p since the float, their first real chance of decent profits, so a little profit-taking after the figures was not surprising.

Hydro shares dropped 5p to 199p on news of pre-tax profits up 34.6 per cent to £125.3 million in the year to end-March. A final dividend of 6.91p makes a 10.16p total, an 11.3 per cent increase. This hardly competes with the 15 to 17 per cent rises on offer in England and Wales but compares with 10.1 per cent from Scottish Power.

Hydro had the benefit of lower generation costs, a sharp increase in rainfall towards the end of the financial year boosting the hydro-electric turbines, while capital spending of £32.2 million was down more than £20 million on the previous year's unusually high total. The firm exceeded some profits expectations by about £10 million.

Nigel Hawkins, of Hoare Govett, says that, for this year,

£142 million looks achievable. This puts the shares on a forward earnings multiple of 9.4, while the promise of 6 to 8 per cent real dividend growth gives a prospective yield of 5.6 per cent. Little immediate reason to chase.

### Jeyes Group

JUSTIFICATION for the 24 times historic rating on which shares in Jeyes Group trade has come at last. The British germ killing company is making a logical acquisition of a speciality household products group, based in Germany, that will give it new markets and new products — notably domestic insecticides and air fresheners.

Jeyes' chief executive is Jimmy Moir, is buying Globol, founded in Germany in 1878, from its management and 75 per cent shareholder BP, for £18.1 million, in a deal that will reduce Jeyes' current 70 per cent reliance on the British market

to 42 per cent. Jeyes' management, which since its MBO from Cadbury Schweppes in 1986 has steadily improved margins to their current 7.9 per cent, should have a field day with margins at Globol — currently only 3.5 per cent, but with the potential to regain their earlier 10 per cent plus heights. Jeyes has six sites producing annual sales of £62 million, and Globol two, with annual sales of £40 million.

The deal is being funded via a three-for-seven rights issue at 385p, which raises £21.7 million and leaves £3.6 million spare to develop Globol.

Jeyes is on course for 1992 pre-tax profits of £5.7 million, which should rise to £8.5 million in 1993. The shares, on a theoretical earnings price of 446p, trade on 19.8 times prospective earnings, and on 16.8 times based on 1993 profit hopes. Graduation from the USM to a full listing will enhance Jeyes' investment following, and the shares remain worth holding.

## Reg Vardy ready to expand dealerships

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

REG Vardy, the car dealer with several franchises — including one gained in January from Nissan's new distribution company — is poised to expand.

Peter Vardy, chairman, said that despite a difficult trading climate in the year to April 30, the fall in pre-tax profits had been modest. The final dividend was raised from 2.4p to 2.7p, making 4p (3.6p) for the year. Pre-tax profits were £4.11 million (£4.37 million) on a turnover of £177.5 million (£182.6 million).

The company raised £1.29 million last October via a placing and open offer of 11.1 million shares at 120p each. It says the funds raised will be

invested in dealership facilities. Mr Vardy said an expected recovery in new car volumes had failed to materialise. "There continues to be speculation with regard to new vehicle pricing in Britain which has further contributed to reduced sales volumes," he added.

The company's service, parts and bodyshops division continued to make a respectable contribution to profits.

Vardy has 21 dealerships, representing 13 franchises, and two MotorZone used car centres. "Opportunities to acquire franchised dealerships in major towns and cities continue to present themselves," Mr Vardy added.

## Bundesbank denies talk of squeeze

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bundesbank is trying to quell speculation in Frankfurt about a further tightening of monetary policy. In an unusual public comment ahead of its bi-weekly policy council meeting next week, Germany's central bank denied reports that a further squeeze on Germany's unification-battered economy was being considered. "It is a matter of speculation, for which there is no basis," a spokesman was quoted as saying.

The speculation, which is circulating in newspapers and in Germany's leading banks, reflects fears that hardliners on the Bundesbank's central council might force such a decision at the council meeting next Thursday. The Bundesbank had said previously that the meeting would discuss monetary policy and interest rates.

While there is little likelihood of a rise in

interest rates, there are fears that the Bundesbank might cap the amounts of money banks can borrow, or introduce other measures designed to restrict lending. This could be achieved by imposing ceilings on the amounts banks can draw from the Bundesbank at the Lombard emergency funding rate. An alternative would be to raise minimum reserve ratios.

The pressure for further tightening apparently stems from regional central banks. The hawks are concerned about strong growth in money supply, which has risen almost 10 per cent since the beginning of the year, twice as fast as the Bundesbank's target range would have permitted.

The apparent disagreement within the Bundesbank about the course of mon-

## NatWest's US offshoot returns to profit

NATWEST Bancorp, the American arm of National Westminster, bounced back to profitability in the first half of the year after a fall in provisions for bad debt and tight cost control. The New York and New Jersey bank reported net income of \$66.1 million in the six months (£276 million loss).

The turnaround will boost the group's profits by £179 million when it reports next month. Last year NatWest's interim profits tumbled to only £102 million. NatWest Bancorp's bad debt provisions fell from \$357 million to \$61 million, reflecting the recovery in the local economy and the stabilisation of property prices. Despite this, the bank still has a \$1.12 billion portfolio of bad debts, only marginally lower than a year ago.

## Kelt back in the black

KELT Energy, the oil and gas company that restructured last year, reports net income of £203,000 for the year to end-March. The results include non-recurring interest charges of £2.8 million and foreign exchange losses of £3.9 million. Operating profits were £2.3 million on £27.75 million turnover despite transfer of its most significant asset, a 7.5 per cent interest in Wyth Farm to banks. In the previous 12 months, before agreement was reached with banks, Kelt made total losses of £154.33 million, including provisions of £146 million against capitalised exploration and development costs.

## Channel Tunnel buys

CHANNEL Tunnel Investments, formed in 1881 to promote the construction of a tunnel from England to France, is buying Carflow Products, a supplier of car security products, for a maximum consideration of £2.87 million and changing its name to Channel Holdings. The deal will be partly funded through a conditional placing of 6 million shares and an underwritten two-for-one rights issue, together worth £1.5 million. The company reported a pre-tax loss of £10,000 in the year to end-December, compared with a profit of £806.

## Microgen edges ahead

MICROGEN Holdings, the computer services group, benefited from work generated by the poll tax and the general election, which offset the impact of recession. Pre-tax profits rose from £4.33 million to £4.37 million in the six months to the end of April. Earnings per share were unchanged at 7.2p as is the interim dividend at 2.2p. Turnover was £24.97 million (£24.6 million). Disposals strengthened the balance sheet, with net cash of £1.21 million at the half year, compared with borrowings of £947,000 12 months earlier.

## Domino lifts interim

DOMINO Printing Sciences, a distributor and manufacturer of industrial ink-jet printers, which is based in Cambridge, reports pre-tax profits up from £3.43 million to £4.54 million, on turnover of £30.9 million (£26.4 million), for the six months ended April. The interim dividend rises from 2.1p to 2.4p. The company said the order book is strong and its assembly plants are working extra hours. Gerald Dennis, the chairman, said: "We expect, therefore, that the full-year result will mark further satisfactory progress."

## Dowding looks to US

DOWDING & Mills, the electrical and mechanical repair group, is taking its first step into the American market with the purchase of Equipment Maintenance Services for a maximum of \$12 million. The deal is being funded by the issue of 10.8 million new shares. Dowding and then offered back to shareholders at 55p each. On the stock market, Dowding shares fell 47p to 51p. EMS operates from three locations, Phoenix in Arizona, Gillette in Wyoming and Farmington in New Mexico.

## Jarvis plans share issue

JARVIS PAPER, a maker of printed labels, is raising £11.97 million through a placing and open offer to finance the acquisition of the promotional products and specialty print division of James Wilkes. The sum includes £8 million in respect of the division and £500,000 for a property. The balance shareholders are offered three new shares for every eight held at 138p each, against yesterday's price of 145p, down 3p. The shares have been conditionally placed by Hill Samuel.

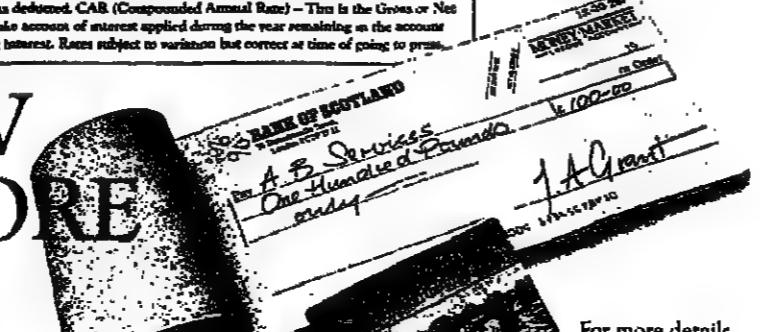
## Receivers called in

COLORGRAPHIC, the direct marketing business whose shares were suspended last week on the departure of Nick Winkles, the former chief executive, has called in the receivers. The board took the decision in the face of mounting debts and the battering Colorgraphic has taken in the recession. The joint administrative receivers are David Lovett and John Talbot of Arthur Andersen. A spokesman said the group hoped to keep the companies trading while buyers were found. The American and Dutch subsidiaries are unaffected.

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Interest policy reflects divisions over basic economic beliefs. The hardliners are convinced monetarists, who believe interest rates should be set to keep monetary growth within clear and defined limits; others might be prepared to go soft on monetarism.

Despite the talk about further tightening, an equally strong case could be made for a softening of monetary policy. The German economy is slowing markedly. Exports are falling as the dollar weakens against the mark. Inflation will fall to below 4 per cent in July and will probably not rise above this level again. But a fall in German interest rates, however sensible it would be, is not expected until the autumn at the earliest. Some economists believe rates will not come down before next year.

The apparent disagreement within the Bundesbank about the course of mon-

etary policy reflects divisions over basic economic beliefs. The hardliners are convinced monetarists, who believe interest rates should be set to keep monetary growth within clear and defined limits; others might be prepared to go soft on monetarism.

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# Receivership rate falls after banks step up help

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

IMPROVED efforts by banks to help companies in trouble may have contributed to a fall in the number of receivership appointments during the second quarter.

Although the number of appointments recorded fell by almost a third, to 948, Tim Hayward, head of corporate recovery at KPMG Peat Marwick, the accountant that compiled the figures, said he was convinced the trend was still upwards. "If the figures for the first six months of the year are compared to the previous six months the overall level of receiverships continues to grow," he said.

Mr Hayward said there were no signs that the difficulties companies faced had eased because of firms taking on too much business after a lean spell, as would be expected at the end of a recession.

The recent reduction in the level of receiverships may well be the result of the banks redoubling their efforts to find

solutions for clients with difficulties," he said. Use of "turn-around" services to help firms in trouble had risen.

Mr Hayward said the outlook for the economy remained grim, and many rescue efforts might prove futile. "It is too early to say whether the large number of companies that are on banks' watch list will be capable of being turned around or whether there will, at the end of the day, be no option but to file for insolvency."

Mr Hayward's caution was expressed after Pears' survey showed its first significant fall in the level of receiverships for two years. Receivership appointments during the second quarter at 948, was 30.4 per cent down on the 1,362 recorded during the first three months of the year.

However, the total for the first six months, at 2,310, was 17 per cent higher than during the second half of 1991.

Mr Hayward said he saw no reason to expect the problems facing companies to lessen. "The fundamental problem facing a large number of companies is that of an inadequate level of sales, and until consumer and industrial confidence returns, this won't improve. This means that it's unlikely companies will be able to do much about their weakened financial position since most have already taken significant action in controlling their cost base."

Over half of the receivership appointments in the second quarter were in the South East, where 488 companies failed. The Midlands was next hardest hit with 121 failures, followed by the North West (107) and the North East (93).

By sector, manufacturing was hardest hit. Manufacturing firms accounted for 28.5 per cent of failures, followed by construction (18 per cent), finance and business services (14.1 per cent) and wholesale distribution (8.5 per cent).

**Comment:** page 23

## Banner reduces losses

Banner Homes, a Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire property group, unveiled pre-tax losses of £688,000 for the year to March 31, compared with a £732,000 loss last year. The group's industrial and office properties are to be sold and the proceeds invested in housebuilding.

The company has debts of £11.8 million, mostly linked to its commercial property portfolio. That contributed rents of about £880,000 last year, compared with Banner's interest bill of £1.2 million. There is again no dividend.

### Brewer falls

Pre-tax profits of Cheshire-based Burtonwood Brewery fell by 18 per cent to £4.62 million in the year to March 31. The company said the previous year's figure had been inflated by property disposals; underlying profits this time were up by 21 per cent. A 3.75p final dividend makes a total of 4.45p (4.24p).

### Record profit

Stewart & Wight, a property investment group, lifted pre-tax profits to £351,534 (£310,303) in the year to March 31. There is a proposed single dividend of 120p (105p). Michael Conn, chairman, said rental income and net profits were at record levels. The value of the property portfolio has been reduced by £1.2 million to £4.3 million.

### Jurys sags

Jurys Hotels, a Dublin-based hotel chain, saw pre-tax profits decline to £12.5 million (£2.3 million) from £13.25 million in the year to April 30. Earnings per share were 18.3p (18.1p). A maintained final dividend of 18p leaves the total unchanged at 18p.

### Simon purchase

Simon Engineering, an engineering, environmental and industrial services group, has bought Teledyne Exploration's marine seismic data acquisition arm for \$10 million.

## Mickey Mouse blockaded by truckers

By MARTIN WALLER

FRANCE'S lorry drivers might have succeeded where the massed ranks of the country's intelligentsia failed — and humbled the giant American Disney Corporation.

Chaos on the roads seems to have been the last straw for

Euro Disneyland, the amusement park east of Paris that opened to a less than ecstatic reception in the spring.

In an interview with *Les Echos*, the French financial daily, Robert Fitzpatrick, Euro Disney chairman, said the company needed three years

to see if it had met its objectives. He also said incentives were planned to promote use of the theme park on winter weekdays.

He declined to make an earnings forecast for this year and would not say whether the company expected to reach its target of 11 million visits in the first 12 months of operation.

Mr Fitzpatrick's remarks were taken as a further indication that the leisure park, denounced as "cultural Chernobyl" by French intellectuals who scorn the importation of Mickey Mouse culture, was failing to reach target attendance figures.

Although Euro Disney is guilty of quoting figures, attendance is thought to have been badly hurt by the lorry drivers' actions in bringing the French road system to a standstill at a

time of the year that is potentially highly profitable.

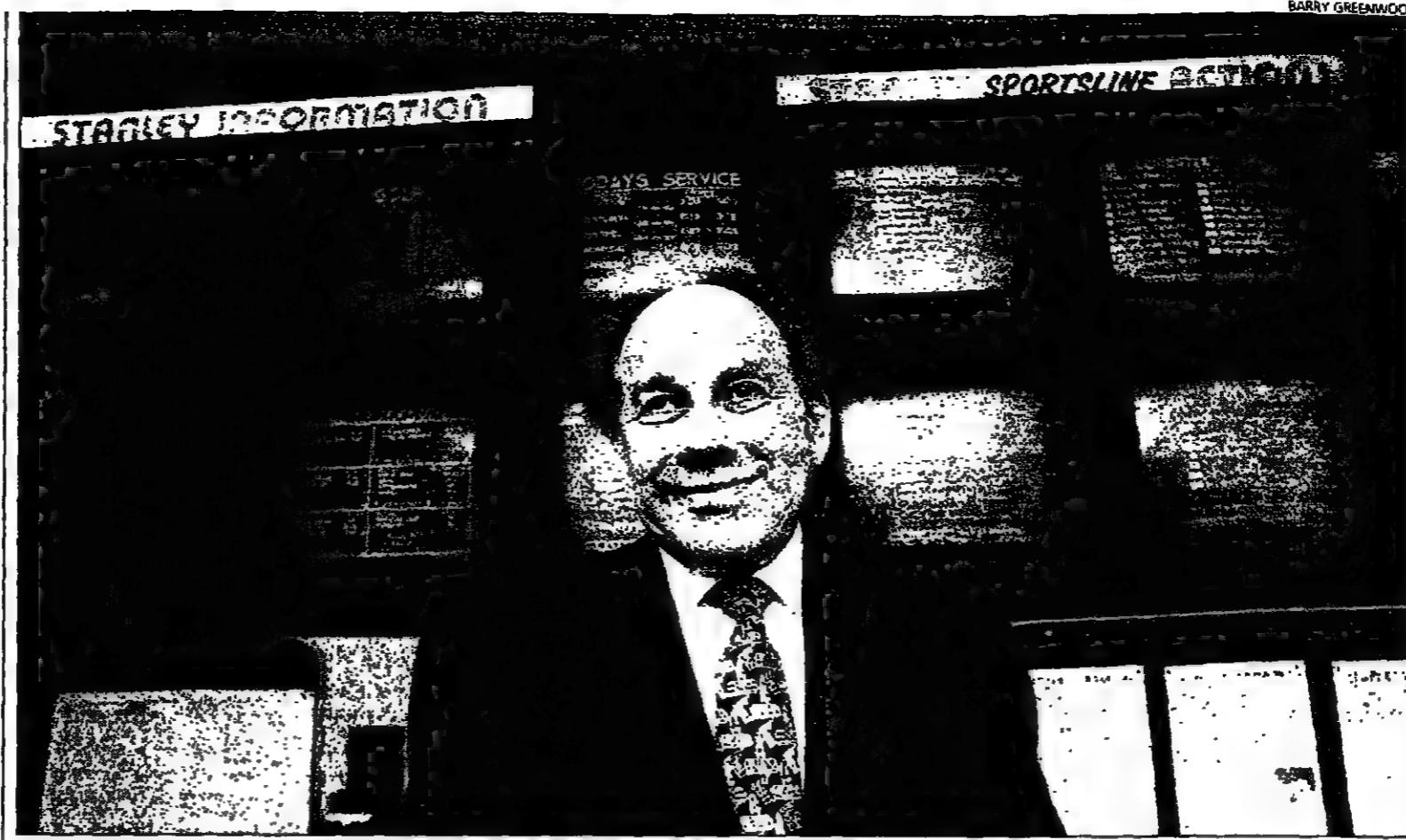
The best clues to Euro Disney's performance have been figures from the group itself showing that more than 1.5 million people came in the first seven weeks of operation. This suggests a daily intake of 30,000 — the average number needed throughout the year to reach the 11 million forecast.

However, the park was always expected to be more popular in the summer months than in the winter and summer attendances would have to be much higher than the average for the target to be met.

Best assessments, even before the French trucking industry went on the rampage, were that perhaps 9 million would go through the turnstiles in the first year.

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Focus on recovery: Leonard Steinberg, Stanley Leisure chairman, is "reasonably confident" of a satisfactory outcome for the year

## Harland Simon shares collapse

By JON ASHWORTH

SHARES in Harland Simon, the control systems group, plunged 28p to 40p on a pre-tax loss of £6.3 million in the year to March (£9.9 million profit).

In February, the share price collapsed from 585p to 253p after the company gave warning that exposure to companies controlled by Robert Maxwell would result in a "significant fall" in pre-tax profits for the year.

Contracts expected to be placed by Maxwell Communications Corporation and Mirror Group Newspapers had suffered through the publisher's death and this was expected to cut profits by £2 million. Provisions of £750,000 had been made to cover disputed debts due from the Maxwell companies. Roy Ashman, chairman, resigned after the announcement.

The full extent of the losses was disclosed yesterday. Operating profit fell to £3.4 million (£10.3 million). Most losses are due to an exceptional £5.1

million provision against monies outstanding from Perfor Information Limited (PIL), an information provider. The company is taking a majority stake in PIL to sell on later.

Exceptional items include £500,000 in early termination of contract costs relating to Mr Ashman and other staff. Provisions for bad and doubtful debts reach £1.6 million. Other provisions include reorganization and legal costs over a patent action of £300,000 and £700,000 in other non-recurring exceptional items. There has been a £2 million write-off in research costs.

Harland Simon issued a statement denying claims in a national newspaper that the company is having building work done by Industrial Radiographic Services, a company in which John Redshaw, managing director, is a shareholder.

Redshaw, managing director, said the company was more resilient to swings in booking than the large tour operators.

Eurocamp was bought by its management from Next, the stores group, in 1988, and came to the stock market via an offer for sale and placing in July 1991. There is an interim dividend of 3.45p.

## Eurocamp in red at halfway

By MICHAEL TATE

STANLEY Leisure, the north country betting shops and casinos group, made pre-tax profits of £7.82 million (£7.13 million) despite the recession. Earnings rose 1p to 15.4p a share.

Shareholders will receive a final dividend of 3.3p a share, lifting the total from 4.85p to 5.2p a share. Stanley is also making a 1-for-4 bonus share issue.

Leonard Steinberg, the chairman, said the effects of recession are apparent, and are making business difficult in both main divisions. "But the 1991-92 results have shown that the group can earn acceptable profits in difficult trading conditions," he added.

Richard Atkinson, managing director, said the company was more resilient to swings in booking than the large tour operators.

Eurocamp expects to meet its booking targets, helped by its appointment as a selected operator for the EuroDisney resort. Overall booking volume of more than 15 per cent is anticipated.

Richard Atkinson, managing director, said the company was more resilient to swings in booking than the large tour operators.

He believes the group is in a good position to take advantage of any economic recovery, and is "reasonably confident" of a satisfactory outcome for the new financial year. Turnover from the 325 betting shops increased 10 per cent to £174.3 million and profits rose 2 per cent to

## Stanley Leisure rises despite harsh trading

By MICHAEL TATE

£6.2 million. The casinos did better than in the previous year from a similar level of "drop", thanks to an improvement in margins, and tight control of overheads. Attendance levels remained constant over the year.

Mr Steinberg said. Average spend in the group's casinos is £90, compared with £100 before the recession.

The Bournemouth casino was refurbished and the Edinburgh business was transferred to new premises in a listed building towards the end of the financial year. The freehold of the Newcastle casino was also bought during the year, raising capital expenditure to £300,000.

Stanley's printing division was sold in October last year, contributing to £2.3 million of extraordinary charges. The group is also expected to dispose of its snooker clubs, which are still only breaking even, should a reasonable offer materialise.

The group's current gearing level is 35 per cent.

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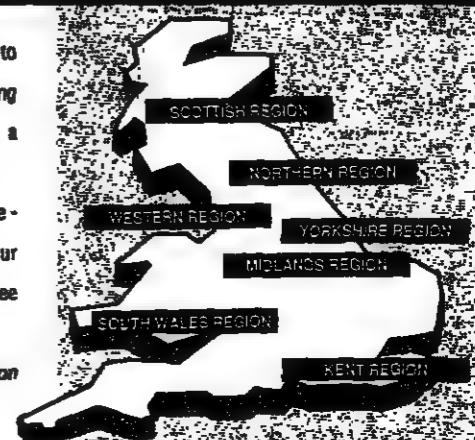
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Abbey tries again to trace share owners

By LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

ABBEY National is making a final attempt to find 390,000 of its shareholders who have not claimed £105 million worth of shares. Sir Christopher Tugendhat, the chairman, will write on Monday to the people who have not claimed the 100 free shares they were allocated at the time of the flotation in 1989.

This is the seventh time the building society turned bank has tried to persuade some of its customers to claim their bonus from the flotation. Last time, 5,000 lots of shares were claimed.

Claim forms will also be available in Abbey National's 700 branches and a free telephone line has been established on 0500 500 202 to help claimants. John Fry, group services director, said the cost of giving away the shares could be as much as £500,000.

When the claims have been dealt with, the bank will sell the remaining shares. Most of the proceeds will be retained by the Abbey. Savers and borrowers will still have a further six years to claim the proceeds of the share sale and can claim dividends for 12 years from the date they were announced. The shares are now worth £2.73 and 25.7 pence of dividends has been paid for each share during the past three years.

The group will also use up to 10 per cent of the sale proceeds to endow the Abbey National Charitable Trust. The trust, which is responsible for administering the company's charitable donations, could double its giving as a result of the payment. It currently gives £1 million in money and services.

The bank has decided not to cancel the shares after taking legal advice. This would involve a special meeting of shareholders and a court case and the cancellation would probably not be sanctioned.

Mr Fry said that a large number of the people owed shares had probably changed address since 1989. Some might object to the conversion and have refused to claim on principle. Others could know they were not eligible for the shares but not told the Abbey.

## STOCK MARKET

## Stronger dollar lifts blue chips

PRICES enjoyed a technical rally, encouraged by a steadier performance on the foreign exchange market and a spot of bear closing before the end of the account today. The FTSE 100 index closed near its best level of the day, finishing 25.3 points higher at 2,497.9 as the Dow Jones industrial average opened sharply higher on Wall Street, helped by the dollar's revival. But business remained thin, with only 436 million shares traded and brokers were certainly about no illusions about the market's performance.

Conditions remain volatile, with the cash market continuing to take its lead from the

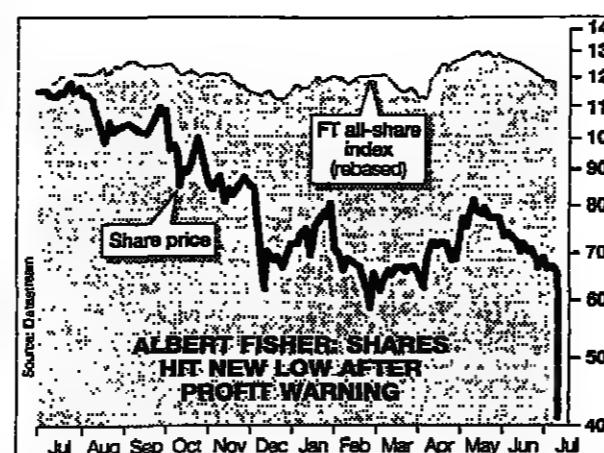
because of the dollar's strength and the hopes that the American economy may be on the mend. Gains were recorded in BAT Industries, 19p to 760p, Rothmans International, 20p to 641p, BOC Group, 12p to 614p, ICL, 12p to £11.49, and Grand Metropolitan, 11p to 460p.

British Aerospace failed to maintain an early mark-up that saw the price touch 265p on the news that Airbus Industrie had won a contract to supply United Airlines of America with 50 A320 aircrafts, with an option on 50 more.

BAe, which has a one-third stake in the Airbus consortium, closed 3p higher at 245p. The deal was also good news for Rolls-Royce, 1p cheaper at 146p, which supplies the engines and Lucas Industries, 9p stronger at 124p. Lucas supplies equipment worth \$500,000 for each aircraft.

Albert Fisher, the fruit and vegetable distributor, was the biggest casualty of the day, with the price almost halving after it issued a profits warning.

The company said that profits in the second half would be significantly lower than had been expected. Tony



ALBERT FISHER: SHARES HIT NEW LOW AFTER PROFITS WARNING

Millar, the chairman, said the group was not in a position to make a dividend forecast, but was aware of the importance of dividends to shareholders. The shares ended 25p down at 41p. The shock waves from Albert Fisher upset the other food distributors. Hillsdown Holdings touched 142p. The price later rallied to close only 3p lighter at 145p.

Unigate, the dairy products and transport group, was another weak market, losing 6p at 310p, as a line of 2.8 million shares went through the market.

Harland Simon, the elec-

tronics group, also upset its shareholders, with the price tumbling 28p to a low of 40p, after giving a profits warning. The group has announced a pre-tax loss of £6.3 million, compared with a profit of almost £10 million last time. The figure was struck after exceptional items of £3.5 million. The shares were trading at 58p in February.

Property shares suffered a mark-down, depressed by the absence of news about interest rates.

Falls were seen in Bilton, 15p to 383p, British Land, 6p to 179p, Brixton Estate, 4p to

141p, Cardiff Property, 15p to 135p, Hammerson A, 14p to 306p, Land Securities, 4p to 395p, MPEC, 16p to 266p, Merrivale Moore, 12p to 25p, and Power Corporation, 5p to 50p.

Rank Organisation touched 645p after better than expected half-year figures. But it failed to hold on to the lead after a cautious meeting with analysts and finished 7p lower at 624p. Pre-tax profits were just £2 million lighter at £94 million, but analysts have now downgraded profits for the full year to £250 million compared with earlier estimates of about £275 million.

The group said the recession

New York — Shares rose in early trading with investors confident in blue chips' ability to stand their ground despite worries about forthcoming corporate results. The Dow Jones industrial average advanced 19.72 points to 3,313.

■ Tokyo — Prices confirmed

their technical recovery into

second day and closed firmer

in choppy trading. The Nikkei

index rose 248.40 points, or

1.5 per cent, to 16,848.66.

Turnover rose to about 250 million shares, compared with 201 million on Wednesday.

■ Sydney — Australian shares

closed weak after the worst

unemployment figures since

the Depression plunged the

stock market into gloom. The

all-ordinates index closed

down 9.3 points at 1,642.5

but above its low for the

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employment rose to a seasonal

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ago.

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■ Singapore — Prices fin-

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hunting with attention mainly

on Malaysian shares traded in

the over-the-counter market.

The Straits Times Industrial

index rose 7.5 points to

1,481.02. (Reuters)

MICHAEL CLARK

RISSES:

Grand Met ..... 480p (+11p)

Guinness ..... 557p (+29p)

Country Classics ..... 120p (10p)

THORN EMI ..... 788p (+15p)

Dwyer A ..... 21p

Glasso ..... 707p (+26p)

Stobie ..... 663p (+13p)

Williams Holdings ..... 293p (+1p)

Groveson Lim ..... 56p (+1p)

Henderson Eurotrust ..... 67p

News Corp ..... 841p (+14p)

## Dow makes early advance

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REED INT ..... 825p (+12p)

Arjo Wiggins ..... 240p (+10p)

BAT ..... 780p (+18p)

CROWN CONTINENTAL ..... 21p

EMI ..... 788p (+15p)

Dwyer A ..... 21p

Glasso ..... 707p (+26p)

MANFIELD ..... 890p (-10p)

LIBERTY LIFE ..... 564p (+24p)

ADMIRAL ..... 346p (-12p)

CLOSING PRICES PAGE 25

Brent Walker Wis ..... 43p

British Bio-Tech (428) ..... 425p

Country Classics (52) ..... 130p (10p)

EMI Japan Trust (108) ..... 10p

Dwyer A ..... 21p

EMI Japan Trust Writers (34) ..... 50p

WILLIE WINKIE (108) ..... 10p

ADMIRAL WARRIOR (11) ..... 11p

The Telegraph (10) ..... 26p

70p

75p

78p

80p

82p

85p

88p

90p

92p

95p

98p

100p

102p

105p

108p

110p

## Bad news at last for accountants

**L**ittle good news comes from the insolvency business except of its demise. So far, the recession has been a boon to the accountancy profession, generating insolvency fees of £335 million in the past 12 months, compared with £101 million in 1988 for the 19 largest professional firms. Corporate undertakings clearly have little to complain of in personal terms. But they are the classic contracyclic indicator of the health of the business world and it was therefore modestly cheering to discover that business has not been so good lately. Receivership appointments declined 30 per cent in the second quarter. The tough question, as with so many statistical indicators these days, is to determine whether this is merely a dip in a series that continues to trend upwards or whether it is the start of a turning point in the trend itself.

After a scathing report on the track record of forecasters, including the Treasury, from the National Institute for Social and Economic Research, the hapless businessman looking for guidance may be inclined to discount everything except the cash in his own till. But for the record, KPMG Peat Marwick, which compiled the data, believed that the trend of insolvency is still firmly upwards. There is no easy explanation for the sharp second-quarter decline, except the possibility that banks might be burning more midnight oil in efforts to rescue clients from bankruptcy.

It is also possible that election blight, which slowed corporate decision taking to a trickle in the couple of months prior to polling day, held back even the rate of company failures. Typically, the first green shoots of recovery herald an increase in bankruptcy as stricken firms go once too often to their bankers, seeking further working capital to tide them over a pick-up in trade. In all probability, the final upturn in the fortunes of corporate undertakers is some months away yet.

## Danger for bears

**I**f house prices are finally stabilising, as yesterday's news from the Halifax Building Society suggested, many extreme bears may be in trouble, in the stock market, the foreign exchanges and City forecasting firms. The danger for the bears is not that the housing market will pull the economy out of recession but that stability in housing suggests the recession may already be at an end.

The idea that any economic recovery would have to wait for an increase in house prices has never made much sense. House prices, even more than unemployment, are a lagging indicator. They reflect past events in the economy, rather than pointing to the future. In previous cycles, house prices have always gone on falling, at least in real terms, until after the end of recession. They have never taken off until recovery was well under way. This time, too, there is no prospect of housing leading an economic recovery. In fact, for the annual rate of housing inflation merely to turn positive would require eight more months of the kind of 0.3 per cent increase in seasonally adjusted house prices announced yesterday. Fortunately, the rest of the economy should not have to wait that long to show some growth.

What yesterday's housing figures, backed up by the upbeat consumer survey published by Gallup and Business Strategies, suggested was that sentiment in the high streets may not be as grim as many of the pundits suppose. Consumers are cautious and reluctant to take on new debt but they are not tightening their belts any further. Provided employers keep their nerve and do not hit the economy with another wave of redundancies and destocking, a modest recovery should become perceptible within the next few months.

**A**ngela Mackay says  
Britain may have to  
move towards creation  
of its own SEC if  
investors are to regain  
confidence in the system

**I**n Wall Street, the firm that traced the spectacular rise and fall of a young stockbroker at the close of the 1980s, the American attitude to regulation was clearly demonstrated. Put simply, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the American government agency, inspired feelings of awe and fear in the film's protagonists.

Compare this reaction with that conjured up by Britain's smorgasbord of self-regulatory organisations, which even with Hollywood's help, could summon little more than lip service.

Fear alone will not stop committed fraudsters, but the Securities and Exchange Commission is unconnected with those bodies it regulates and therefore is able to be less sensitive to the knock-on effects of its decisions, unlike self-regulatory organisations, which by virtue of their makeup must be more cautious.

Britain's self-regulatory organisations come under the aegis of the Securities and Investments Board, which yesterday published a six-page statement on the role of one of its reporting bodies, the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, in the Maxwell affair.

The Securities and Investments Board concluded that Imro had been extremely lax in monitoring the managers of Maxwell pension funds but instead of withdrawing its recognition, SIB will help Imro strengthen its supervisory role. To its credit, Imro has already already fallen on its sword with George Nissen, the chairman, resigning last week while two more senior staff left quietly the previous week.

Robert Maxwell's elaborate smokescreens and stonewalling prevented regulators and, if we are to be generous, employees from uncovering the depth of his perfidy.

There will always be some who believe no amount of legislation or rule-giving can obviate with fraud but in the face of such dismal failure in Maxwell and other cases, there is surely a case for speeding up the apportionment of blame and moving on to the more important task of closing the windows and ironing out the wrinkles that fostered the problems.

The Maxwell affair is the most recent ruction in a string of disasters suffered by the British investor over the past few years. Barlow Clowes, British & Commonwealth, Dunsdale Securities, Levitt Group — all are cases where the regulations failed to protect the interests of small investors.

Similarly, the problems at Lloyd's insurance market highlight the shortcomings of self-regulation, albeit for a different type of investor.

In yesterday's Times, Ian Hay Davison, the former deputy chair-



Master of the smokescreen: Robert Maxwell before his ill-fated trip to Tenerife last November

man and chief executive of Lloyd's said: "I believe the time has come to end the self-regulatory arrangements at Lloyd's and to put the market, as far as investors are concerned, on the same footing as other City markets."

Two reports were delivered to Lloyd's last week in the wake of the extraordinary losses suffered by names. The first by Sir David Walker, the former chairman of SIB, concluded that while there was no evidence of fraud, standards of professional care and diligence fell "materially below best practice".

The second report by Sir Jeremy Morse dovetails neatly with Sir David's. Sir Jeremy examined the governance of the market and recommended the separation of regulatory functions from the market's business functions to try to give investors a better deal.

On an international level, there is a push to tighten financial regulation after the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

The Bank of England has called for legislation that gives a "new explicit

power to refuse or revoke authorisation on the sole ground that an applicant or authorised bank cannot be effectively supervised".

The bank's proposal follows the publication this week of a proposal by the Basle committee on banking supervision stating that all banks must have a capable lead regulator and that other regulators may take action against overseas branches of banks that they are not being supervised properly.

At worst these examples show the failure of a *laissez-faire* regulatory structure while at best they are a valid reason for investors to harbour scepticism about the effectiveness of philosophies that could not last beyond the financial bonanza of the 1980s.

It is troubling that it has taken so long for the government to seriously address the problems revealed by this catalogue of disasters. More than two years ago many voices, including that of David Pine, the lawyer who represented Barlow Clowes investors, called for more muscle to be injected into SIB. SROs and the Financial

Services Act 1986 which created them. Since then the size of the corporate collapses has grown but not much more than reshuffling has occurred.

The government has already decided the original idea of a family of five SROs harboured by a parent SIB must go. Last year the Securities Association merged with the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers to form the Securities and Futures Authority.

Earlier this year, the Chivas report recommended that another two SROs, Lauro, the body looking after assurance and unit trusts, and Fimbra, the financial intermediaries, managers and brokers body, should merge next year along with 30 per cent of Imro's members dealing with the public to form the Private Investors Authority.

This will reduce the number of SROs to two and two-thirds, and logically, the rump of Imro which deals with professional investors should be folded into the SFA, whittling down the number of SROs to two. Imro is

resisting absorption but the SIB's assessment of its role in the Maxwell affair along with Imro's self-accusatory report will eventually weaken Imro's effectiveness to its members, who are likely to want to make a fresh start after the Maxwell debacle. Hinting at these and wider changes, Sir David Walker called for a sweeping government review of the regulatory structure for the financial services industry just before he left SIB last month.

He said the system was too fragmented and splintered and this undermined its effectiveness. Sir David said: "It is doubtful whether the present system of fragmentation of responsibility would be built in if the system were now being designed afresh, and I believe that present arrangements for regulation of market-related problems merit early review."

Yesterday Mr Pine said his comments of two years ago were still current and added that the streamlining of the self-regulatory system was its last chance. He said: "If this most recent attempt to revive self regulation does not work then the whole system will be discredited and we will have to look at the introduction of an SEC-style regime."

Sir David's conclusions could support the establishment of an SEC system in Britain although Sir David does not mention this specifically. He did point out the difficulties in investigating market manipulation and insider trading in securities markets by those not covered by the Financial Services Act — something an SEC-style body would have the power to investigate or delegate that authority to others.

Andrew Large, Sir David's successor, assumed the chairmanship at a critical time. Announcing SIB's position on Imro's role in the Maxwell affair yesterday, Mr Large said: "The fact that such a massive fraud could be carried out reflects badly on the United Kingdom corporate and financial system as a whole, as well as on a number of institutions and individuals within that system."

As chairman, he is now concentrating on whether SIB's way of carrying out its supervisory role is appropriate, particularly since the Imro report makes it clear that there was a shortfall in regulatory standards at Imro which the SIB had not identified.

"SIB itself needs to rethink how it plays its part in ensuring that the self-regulatory bodies provide effective investor protection. That is my first priority as chairman of SIB and I shall be consulting widely on the course of my review," he concluded.

Mr Large wants to evolve the existing system without throwing out the parts which do work. "It is not helpful to say we should move toward a system from another country. We should instead concentrate on fixing our own to make it work efficiently."

Mr Large says he wants to restore investors' confidence in the system but unfortunately the system has proved fail-safe time after time since the Financial Services Act was introduced and what the chairman and his colleagues conclude after their thorough review could spell the end of the sort of self-regulation intended by the act anyway.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY



### Lewis rides again

**S**TEPHEN Lewis, the professor-looking former top economist at Phillips & Drew, known for his Fifth Horseman newsletters and gloom-and-doom forecasts about Big Bang, is returning to his initial discipline of bond analyst as co-founder of the London Bond Broking Company, an old-style agency bond broker. LBB is a joint venture with Birmingham broker Albert E Sharp, which has just opened new offices in London Wall. Albert E Sharp is putting up 55 per cent of the £600,000 capital, while Lewis is personally investing more than £100,000, partly accumulated during three successful years as an independent economist since leaving P&D. Co-founders Robin Baldwin and Tony Bolton, both ex-P&D, are putting up the rest. Lewis, who dominated City polls in the 1980s as a bond analyst, will be LBB's research director and is forecasting a bond market boom. Famous for predicting the City would lose 50,000 jobs in Big Bang, Lewis now says it "lost that many and more besides" but his followers will be relieved to hear, he now believes, that "days of attrition are over".



Lewis: boom-monger

Lewis-time photo-call to mark her departure from Lehman, which she joined as the old L M Messel & Co in 1949. The pictures was taken outside Winchester House, Messel's old building, where Risley worked first as PA to Hunter's father Jack, former senior partner at Messel, before being acquired by David. Old Messel colleagues say her going marks the end of an era but Risley will still continue to work for Hunter at NCL Investments, the old Niven's, where Hunter moved his private client business last year. Hunter, too, will now be based at NCL but will continue to do futures business for Lehman.

### Wriggling off

**A**BEMUSED David Hunter, director of Lehman Brothers, spent yesterday wondering what had become of his PA of 15 years, René "Wriggles" Risley. Wriggles, 66, was still missing at 4pm after being whisked off for an impromptu

**D**YNAMIC duo BZW has snapped up two top-rated analysts to form a new Scandinavian research team after losing its Nordic specialists earlier this year. Nigel Yandell, 30, for three years the top analyst on Esmark's top

## BUSINESS LETTERS

### Parliament should remove Lloyd's immunity from suit for negligence

From Mr A Munn

Sir, The Morse Working Party on Governance at Lloyd's recommends for obvious reasons that there should be substantial changes in self-regulation.

According to the report, "the two main purposes of regulation are to protect policyholders on the one hand and members of Lloyd's on the other", yet Mr Coleridge has repeatedly stated publicly that Lloyd's owes no duty of care to its members.

The two views are thus incompatible, and it is vital that this conflict be resolved with some urgency.

Members of Lloyd's have been deprived of a basic civil right by the 1982 Lloyd's Act. However great the failure to implement effective protection of members, however negligent the Council of Lloyd's might be, however, "incompetent, inequitable, inefficient, and woefully regulated" the Walker Committee may have found the market, the Act lays down that neither Lloyd's itself nor its Council is liable in damages to those Names who have suffered as the result of its negligence. It should not be necessary for aggrieved Names to take their case to the European Court or to the Court of Human Rights.

Lloyd's Names should seek

support from their Members

of Parliament to remedy this

denial of a fundamental civil

right. If Lloyd's is negligent in respect of Names, then it

should be possible to recover

damages from Lloyd's through the courts.

Yours faithfully

ALEXANDER MUNN

The Cottage

9 Crown Lane

Benson

Oxfordshire

Another five year cycle comes to an end

From Mr Simon D. Bagott

ON 16th July 1987, the FTSE 100 Index reached its then all time high of 2443.4.

It will be interesting to observe

whether that Index is at any

higher level on 16th July this year.

If not, then there will

have been a period of five

years over which that Index

has declined in value, and this

will be only the second such

period of five years in the

entire post-war period. It will

be recalled that the last time

such a period of five years

came to an end was in 1977:

this of course followed the

almost total collapse of the

stock market in 1974.

STIMON D BAGOTT

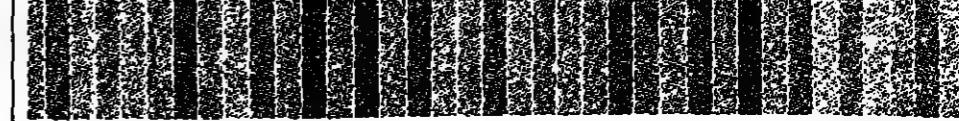
112, Chorley Road,

Sheffield.

conqueror

Next time,  
write  
on something  
important.

Whatever  
you're  
writing on,  
make sure you  
write on  
Conqueror.



Letters to The Times  
Business and Finance  
section can be sent by  
fax on 071-782 5112.

The information contained in this document is in summary form and has been derived from, and should be read in conjunction with, the listing particulars dated 7th July, 1992 (the "Listing Particulars"). The Listing Particulars comprise approved listing particulars relating to Taunton Cider plc (the "Company") in accordance with the listing rules made under section 142 of the Financial Services Act 1986 and contain full details of the history and business of the Company and its subsidiaries. Copies of the Listing Particulars are available at the addresses listed below. Words and expressions defined in the Listing Particulars have the same meaning when used in this document, unless the context requires otherwise. The directors of the Company, whose names appear in the Listing Particulars, are satisfied that this document contains a fair summary of the key information set out in the Listing Particulars. In applying for shares in the Company, you will be treated as applying on the basis of the information in the Listing Particulars and on the terms and conditions of application set out below. Before deciding to apply for shares, you are advised to read the Listing Particulars and to consult an independent financial adviser authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986. The London Stock Exchange has authorised the issue of this document under Section 154(1)(b) of the Financial Services Act 1986 without approving the contents.

Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the whole of the ordinary share capital of the Company; issued and now being issued, to be admitted to the Official List.

TIMETABLE				
1992				
Basis of allocation to be announced	Thursday, 16th July			
Deals to commence	Thursday, 23rd July			

#### KEY INFORMATION

Taunton Cider is a major producer and distributor of a wide range of ciders. It has a portfolio of leading brands, such as Dry Blackthorn and Aurora Gold in the mainstream cider sector and Diamond White and Red Rock in the premium sector, which are sold to a wide customer and consumer base principally in the UK. Its portfolio includes both long-established brands and a range of premium brands which have been introduced since the mid-1980's.

Taunton Cider has led the cider industry in the successful development of the premium sector, which has contributed to sustained volume growth in the cider market since 1988. In terms of sales volume growth, Taunton Cider has consistently outperformed the cider market in recent years and has steadily increased its share of the cider market, from 15 per cent in 1970 to 33 per cent in 1991.

Taunton Cider has efficient and flexible production, packaging and physical distribution operations. Its centre of operations is in Somerset and it employs some 510 people.

Annual operating profit from continuing operations has grown from £5.2 million in the financial year ended 30th April, 1988 to £16.7 million, or turnover of £105.3 million, in the financial year ended 2nd May 1992. This profit growth reflects principally the success of Taunton Cider's strategy of product innovation and brand development, and the benefits of productivity improvements.

The Directors believe that there are significant prospects for further growth in Taunton Cider's business.

#### TRADING RECORD

The results of the Group for the past five financial years, which have been extracted from the Accountants' Report in Part 3 of the Listing Particulars, are summarised below:

	Years ended on or about 30th April,	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Turnover:	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
- from continuing operations	55.5	56.7	72.6	95.1	105.3	
- from discontinued operations	2.0	2.8	5.1	5.6	4.1	
	<b>57.5</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>77.7</b>	<b>100.7</b>	<b>109.4</b>	
Operating profit/(loss):						
- from continuing operations	5.2	5.5	8.7	12.5	16.7	
- from discontinued operations	(0.4)	(0.2)	(0.5)	(2.0)	0.3	
	<b>4.8</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>17.0</b>	

#### OFFER STATISTICS

	Offer price per share	140p
Number of shares in issue following the Offer	109.3 million	
Market Capitalisation at the Offer price	£153.0 million	
Net proceeds of the Offer	£78.5 million	
Nets proceeds receivable by the Company	£65.9 million	
Historic earnings per share for the year ended 2nd May, 1992 (Note 1)	8.6p	
Pro forma earnings per share for the year ended 2nd May, 1992 (Note 2)	9.3p	
Earnings per share at the Offer price based on pro forma		
earnings per share		15.1 times
Notional net dividend per share for the year ended 2nd May, 1992 (Note 3)	4.75p	
Notional gross dividend paid at the Offer price	4.5 per cent.	
Pro forma net assets (Note 2)	£23.1 million	
Pro forma net borrowings (Note 2)	£10.4 million	
Pro forma net gearing (Note 3)	45 per cent.	

Notes:  
1. The bases and calculation of historic earnings per share are set out in the Accountants' Report in Part 3 of the Listing Particulars.  
2. The bases and calculation of the pro forma earnings per share (which is calculated as if the management buy-out, the capital reorganisation and the issue of new shares under the Offer had taken place at the beginning of the year) are set out in Part 2 of the Listing Particulars. The pro forma earnings per share for the year ended 2nd May, 1992, the pro forma net assets and the pro forma net gearing set out below under "Pro forma financial information" in Part 2 of the Listing Particulars.  
3. A 5 per cent notional net dividend per share for the year ended 2nd May, 1992, as described under "Dividends" in Part 2 of the Listing Particulars.

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

1. Acceptance of applications under the Offer will be conditional on listing becoming effective no later than 31st July, 1992. Checks or bankers' drafts for amounts payable on application may be presented for payment before such condition is attained and, if such condition is not satisfied, application money will be returned (without interest) by cheque or bankers' draft or by the date of the application, whichever is the earlier, plus a handling fee of 10p per application. Applications will be accepted until such time as the Directors decide that it is no longer necessary to increase effective on 23rd July, 1992.

2. Subject to the acceptance of applications set out in this document, Samuel Montagu requires the right to reject or accept applications for shares, or to accept or reject applications for shares in part, or to accept or reject or accept or reject any other applications including in particular ministerial or suspected ministerial applications, and to present any cheques or bankers' drafts for payment on receipt. If any application is accepted, or is accepted for live shares then the applicant will be liable for the application money or, at the option of the Directors, the amount of the application will be debited from the account of the applicant or, if the applicant is a holder of a cheque or a crossed cheque in favour of the applicant, through the post at the risk of the applicant, or to Samuel Montagu, reserves the right to retain as valid and binding upon the applicant any application for shares which is accepted, or is accepted for live shares, or is accepted for a sum less than the amount of the holder's or a crossed cheque in favour of the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant, or to Samuel Montagu, reserves the right to retain as valid and binding upon the applicant any application for shares which is accepted, or is accepted for live shares, or is accepted for a sum less than the amount of the holder's or a crossed cheque in favour of the applicant through the post 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FRIDAY JULY 11 1992

## EQUITY PRICES 25

THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

**Portfolio**  
PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your stock share price movements on this page. It's also going to give you your overall total and cash balance plus your dividend figure. If it matches the one you have on your card, then you have won. Good luck! If you don't, then you have lost. It's all there on the back of your card. Always have your card to hand when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

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Claims required for +4.3 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Price

Group

Gains or Losses

1 Davis Service

Industrial

2 Lloyds

Banking

3 Remondi

Chemical

4 Hallard (I)

Chemical

5 Newson Tate

Building

6 Paine

Electrical

7 Dunhill

Drapery

8 Cable Wireless

Electrical

9 Transport Dev

Transport

10 Hobsons

Industrial

11 Medeva

Industrial

12 Sutro Water

Water

13 Constar

Industrial

14 Tim &amp; Lyle

Foods

15 Body Shop

Drapery

16 Screen Test

Water

17 Campani Gp

Leisure

18 South West

Water

19 Sanderson Elec

Industrial

20 Asante Br Poms

Transport

21 TII

Industrial

22 Argill

Foods

23 LASMO

Oil/Gas

24 Thales Water

Water

25 Portals

Industrial

26 Hutton Confid

Industrial

27 BHCC

Electrical

28 Knoll

Motors/Air

29 Rugby Group

Building

30 Anglian Water

Water

31 Greenalls Gp

Breweries

32 FCB Scot

Banking

33 Kingfisher

Drapery/Stores

34 DRA

Industrial

35 Wicks

Drapery/Stores

36 Br Vira

Industrial

37 T &amp; N

Industrial

38 Spirax-Sarco

Industrial

39 Ranger

Oil/Gas

40 NFC

Transport

41 Tomkins

Industrial

42 TSB

Banking

43 Dowty

Motors/Air

44 Walker

Industrial

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

Please take into account any minus signs.

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in TOMORROW'S newspaper.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION															
	Bid	Offer	+/-	%		Bid	Offer	+/-	%		Bid	Offer	+/-	%	
AMERICAN UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD	90.00	90.00	0.00	0.00		Kemper Fund	1,000	1,000	0.00	0.00	Global Fund	104.30	104.30	0.00	0.00
AMERICAN UNIV TRUST MNGRS LTD	95.29	91.21	-0.58	-2.74		High Yield	911.00	911.00	0.00	0.00	Income Trust	98.57	98.57	0.00	0.00
AMERICAN UNIV TRUST MNGRS LTD	56.22	62.14	+0.31	1.35		S&P Composite	412.91	412.91	0.00	0.00	International	112.60	110.30	-0.40	0.00
AMERICAN UNIV TRUST MNGRS LTD	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.00		CVI (40)	500.53	532.51	+0.00	0.00	Investment	112.60	110.30	-0.40	0.00
AMERICAN UNIV TRUST MNGRS LTD	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.00		CVI Fund	100.00	278.70	+0.10	1.82	Managed	95.69	95.69	0.00	0.00
AMERICAN UNIV TRUST MNGRS LTD	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.00		Higher Inc	446.80	474.90	+0.05	1.03	Small Cap	171.00	183.30	+0.20	1.03
AMERICAN UNIV TRUST MNGRS LTD	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.00		Globe Fund	115.20	115.20	0.00	0.00	Small Growth	172.30	184.50	+0.20	1.03
AMERICAN UNIV TRUST MNGRS LTD	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.00		Prop Share	149.00	199.00	+1.00	5.16	Large Growth	172.30	184.50	+0.20	1.03
AMERICAN UNIV TRUST MNGRS LTD	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.00		Small Cos	199.00	211.10	+0.10	0.50	New Cos	162.00	162.00	0.00	0.00
AMERICAN UNIV TRUST MNGRS LTD	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.00		Per Inst	187.00	199.00	+0.00	0.00	Recovery	221.30	230.30	+0.10	0.05
AMERICAN UNIV TRUST MNGRS LTD	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.00		Per Inst	187.00	199.00	+0.00	0.00	UK Equity	90.20	73.45	-0.17	0.05
AMERICAN UNIV TRUST MNGRS LTD	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.00		EUROPE	195.30	207.20	+0.10	1.03	0.00				
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AMERICAN UNIV TRUST MNGRS LTD	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.00		US Cos	207.00	207.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
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AMERICAN UNIV TRUST MNGRS LTD	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.00		Global Cos	90.20	73.45	-0.17	0.05	0.00				
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Americans present Black with stern test

## Christie offers best hope of success at Crystal Palace

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS a nearly-empty stadium that greeted Daley Thompson yesterday, but tonight at Crystal Palace the "house full" signs should be up for a grand prix meeting of which Andy Norman, its promoter, is justifiably proud.

"We have entered the realms of the world class group of meetings like Oslo, Brussels and Zurich," Norman said. Coming only three weeks before the Olympic track programme begins, competition will be keen to show form for Barcelona.

There were a few minor alterations to the cast yesterday with Curtis Robb, the British Olympic trial winner, coming into the 800 metres, Linford Christie dropping out of the 200 metres and Mary Stacey withdrawing from her 2,000 metres against Zola Pieters and Yvonne Murray. Robb may be joined by Matthew Yates who, following illness, is considering rejoining the international ranks.

Yates, the European indoor 1,500 metres champion, had his first race for a month on Wednesday, a 1,500 metres in Watford that he won in 3min 49.1sec. He finished with a last lap of 55 seconds, leaving his father-coach, Mike Yates, optimistic for the Olympics.

### Drug ban for S Africans

Cape Town: Two South African athletes have been suspended for using banned drugs, taking the total banned this year to five. Charl Matthews was suspended for three months for using stimulants and will be stripped of his Comrades' Marathon title, and Charmaine Barnard, a triple jumper, was suspended for four years after a second

positive test for anabolic steroids.

□ Oslo: Natalya Artyomova, of the Commonwealth of Independent States, was being reported to the International Amateur Athletic Federation following an alleged irregularity at doping control after she had finished second in the mile at the Bileft Games on Saturday. (Reuter)

### EQUESTRIANISM CYCLING: AUDACIOUS BONTEMPI TAKES FIFTH TOUR DE FRANCE STAGE

### Driving test for new faces

By JENNY MACARTHUR

GEORGE Bowman, the national driving champion and one of the favourites for an individual medal, heads the British team at the World Driving championships at Riesenbeck, Germany, from August 21 to 23.

The team also includes John Richards, one of the founders of the sport in Britain, and two unfamiliar names — Geoffrey Woods, a builder from Herefordshire, and Fred Pendlebury, a breeder of moggots from West Yorkshire. The latter two earned their places after finishing second and third at the final trials at Sandringham.

Bowman, a member of the gold medal-winning team in 1980 — where he also won the individual silver — has "his best chance ever" of an individual medal with his team of Black Cumberland Cobs. The Cumbrian, aged 55, has won four events this season, his ability in the dressage arena now matching his skill in the marathon.

Woods, aged 53, who bought his team of Continental warm bloods from David Saunders, a former coachman to the Duke of Edinburgh, has been placed regularly this season. Pendlebury, aged 49, has been driving a team for six years and reliability has earned him a place. Richards, an experienced team member, won at Tatton Park in June with his team of warm-blood geldings.

All four drivers will use the controversial "bendy pole" on their carriages, which enables a driver to understeer. But it can make a driver lose control down a steep hill.

BRITISH TEAM: G Bowman, S Pendlebury, J Richards, G Woods

### Bauer profits from long escape

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

**Wasquehal:** An audacious sprint five kilometres from the finish took Guido BonTEMPI, of Italy, well clear of a ten-strong breakaway group and to victory in yesterday's fifth stage of the Tour de France from Nogent-sur-Oise to this suburb of Roubaix.

The nine behind him included the Canadian, Steve Bauer, riding for the American Motorcycles team, who accordingly moved up from thirteenth to third place overall. Pascal Lino, of France, retained the yellow jersey.

It was three and a half minutes before the arrival of the field, which included Lino. As race leader, he had been cosseted throughout the day by the entire RMO squad.

among them Charly Mottet, a Brussels finisher includes several short, sharp climbs, among them the dreaded Murat Grammont. Repeated attacks can be expected from the Belgian and Dutch teams who are specialists in this type of terrain. The climbers' time

from Roubaix into Belgium to Alpe.

BonTEMPI, a specialist in audacious moves who has now won 15 stages in the three main tours of France, Italy and Spain, was in the bunch of 10 riders who broke away early and built up a respectable lead on the main peloton. He caught the rest by surprise with his sudden surge of speed and crossed the finish line 30 seconds ahead of Dmitry Konyshov, a member of the Dutch TTM team.

"I knew there were other riders who could beat me in a sprint, so I decided to go five kilometres out," BonTEMPI said. "I'm very tired but it was worth it." The other eight came in six seconds behind Konyshov, led by Olaf Ludwig, of Germany.

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NatWest Trophy holders slip up against Kent in dress rehearsal for Benson and Hedges Cup final

## Ealham stays calm in rousing finish to oust Hampshire

By SIMON WILDE

**SOUTHAMPTON** (Kent won toss): Kent beat Hampshire by two wickets

THIS was an extraordinary game of cat and mouse. With both sides having one eye on the Benson and Hedges Cup final tomorrow, neither appeared sufficiently confident to go for the jugular and, in the end, Hampshire choked on getting a first taste of victory.

The NatWest Trophy holders, who had victory in their sights when Kent, needing 244 to win, were 211 for seven with five overs left, thus failed to reach the semi-finals of the competition for the first time since 1987.

A pulsating finish was set up when the Kent pair of Trevor Ward, who made 92 off 144 balls, and Carl Hooper, who hit a fluent 40 during their third-wicket partnership of 92 in 20 overs, fell in quick succession to Udal, the off-spinner, triggering a collapse.

Before Hooper fell to a catch at long on, having been dropped the previous ball, Kent had required only 78 off 14 overs. In the end, however, they were seen home by some calm batting from Mark Ealham, who made an unbeaten 33 and hit the winning runs with five balls to spare.

### Australia to face six Tests

By RICHARD STREETON

**TAUNTON** (Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire beat Somerset by 22 runs

A STARTLING collapse by Somerset, who lost four main batsmen in four successive overs, cost them their chance of victory in this second round NatWest Trophy match yesterday when they seemed in control. Needing 236 to win, Somerset reached 147 for one before they slumped and were never able to recover.

Somerset received a good start and moved steadily towards their target as Lathwell and Harden added 92 in 19 overs for the second wicket.

Mallender gave Russell his

looking at a total in excess of 270.

Then came the game's second lurch. In the last seven overs, Hampshire inexplicably lost six wickets for 31 and offered two further chances that were not taken. Three of the wickets fell in seven balls to Fleming's modest medium pace. Far from accelerating, Hampshire virtually ground to a halt once Nicholas was run out by Hooper for 25 and Terry, having batted 179 balls and hit 13 fours in his 109, caught in the covers.

When Kent batted, their first priority was not to lose several early wickets. Large thanks to Ward, this was accomplished, but Hampshire kept themselves in the match with timely strikes.

In the eighth over, Benson was well taken by Marti at slip and, in the 26th over, Taylor brilliantly held on the long of boundary by Connor. Then came the partnership between Ward and Hooper which appeared to have put Kent on course to a comfortable victory.

□ Chris Cowdrey, the former England captain, Tony Dodemaide, of Australia, Ian Greig and David Bainbridge, will play for the Duchess of Norfolk's XI against Transvaal at Arundel on July 22.



Cutting edge: Garting slams another boundary on his way to 57 for Middlesex against Durham

## Somerset collapse proves fatal

By RICHARD STREETON

**TAUNTON** (Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire beat Somerset by 22 runs

strokes and confidence that are rapidly becoming his trademark until he lifted a drive against Scott slightly off the ground and Babington took a good catch diving to his left at mid-on.

Tavare was then caught down the leg side trying to glance Walsh, before Scott had Harden caught behind from an inside edge. In the next over Walsh had Rose leg before. Somerset needed 80 from 18 overs and Burns and MacLennan carefully added 33 in eight before MacLennan was caught behind off Babington.

Burns continued to hit shrewdly before he pulled a catch in midwicket, with 31 still wanted. It was too much. Mallender gave Russell his

fifth catch behind the wicket before Walsh took the last two wickets in the 56th over.

Previously the 6ft 5in Caddick consistently imposed his will on the Gloucestershire batsman as he took two wickets in each of his three spells and he was given the man of the match award. His height enabled him to extract disconcerting bounce from a pitch, which always helped the quicker men. He also held a swirling catch to dismiss Scott with deceptive ease.

Born in New Zealand to English parents, Caddick is now English qualified. He began this season promisingly before ankle injuries interrupted his progress but this success should help his confidence.

## Northamptonshire confirm their challenge

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE** overwhelmed Yorkshire by 133 runs in their NatWest Trophy second-round match at Northampton yesterday and the performance will have strengthened the belief among their players that this could be their season to win one of the main county competitions. They are third in the championship.

With Alan Fordham making 78 off 96 balls and Allan Lamb 69 off 58 Northamptonshire amassed 325 for seven, their highest total, by 41 runs against a first-class county in the NatWest. Then Curtis Ambrose struck at ei-

ther end of the Yorkshire innings to finish with four for seven from 8.3 overs and the man-of-the-match award.

Fordham and Felton put Northamptonshire in charge with an opening stand of 129 in 31 overs, which was a perfect foundation for Lamb, Pemberthy and Curran. Yorkshire's innings was quickly in tatters. Blakey and White had initially come off for bad light. Derbyshire will need a further 193 off 56.3 overs.

Warwickshire restricted Sussex to 149 for nine off 53 overs, holding the upper hand from the fourth ball of the innings, when Donald returned. Hall. Three batsmen were run out and a sixth-wicket partnership of 68 between Wells and Stephenson was the only one of substance.

The matches at Derby and Edgbaston were badly affected by the weather, so all four teams engaged there will go

into the bag when the draw for the quarter-finals is made at Lord's this morning.

Leicestershire's bowlers established a platform for victory by removing both Derbyshire openers before the players finally came off for bad light. Derbyshire will need a further 193 off 56.3 overs.

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## Cairns does repairs to Watkin damage

By PETER BALL

**TRENT BRIDGE** (Glamorgan won toss): Glamorgan, with all wickets in hand, need 185 runs in 57.5 overs to beat Nottinghamshire

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE began this morning with everything still to play for. Such an outcome looked inconceivable halfway through yesterday morning, as Steve Watkin exploited the humid atmosphere to reduce them to 43 for five.

Nottinghamshire's total of 194 represented a sizeable disappointment for Glamorgan, but any Welsh self-reproach does less than justice to Chris Cairns, who revealed himself as a considerable all-rounder.

Before his arrival, bating had looked a very difficult art, if not well-nigh impossible. Robinson survived, middling the ball most of the time, but his 30 in 31 overs demanded that someone else take the responsibility for scoring, and Cairns did so judiciously, defending watchfully and driving and cutting fiercely when the chance arose.

He was fortunate to avoid Watkin, who almost made the ball talk in the heavy atmosphere, darting it this way and

that like a swallow in an opening spell of 8-3-8-3. It would have been even more impressive but for Crawley's hooked four in his final over. If the results are similar at Headingley for the next Test, a recall for the Welshman would not be outlandish.

He was too much for the Nottinghamshire upper order as he took his three wickets for two runs in the space of three overs. Randall, after being beaten by four consecutive balls from Watkin, was still looking bemused as an airy drive edged the ball into his stumps. Broad, trapped on the back foot, and Johnson, displaying up not playing a stroke, both fell leg-before.

Bastien and Barwick were slightly looser, or Nottinghamshire would hardly have scored a run, but they too posed problems. Bastien finally gained some reward as he found Crawley's edge.

When Barwick replaced Watkin to have Lewis beautifully picked up by Maynard at cover, only Cairns stood between them and the tail. That Nottinghamshire still have high hopes this morning owes everything to their New Zealand all-rounder. Where have we heard that before?

**TRENT BRIDGE** (Glamorgan won toss): Glamorgan, with all wickets in hand, need 185 runs in 57.5 overs to beat Nottinghamshire

**Notts v Glamorgan**

## YESTERDAY'S NATWEST TROPHY SCOREBOARD

Somerset v Gloucestershire		Hants v Kent		Northants v Yorks		SUSSEX v Warwickshire		Warwicks v Sussex		SUSSEX v Warwickshire	
R A Pick not out	12	R J Scott not out	12	R A Ferguson not out	21	R M Marshall not out	19	J P Tait not out	12	D M Smith not out	22
R G Field-Buss c Mason b Richards	1	R D Caddick not out	1	R J Scott c & b Caddick	1	R A Ferguson c & b Connor	1	R J Scott c & b Connor	1	R J Scott not out	12
I Extras (0, 2, 4, w 7)	0	I Extras (0, 2, 4, w 7)	0	I Extras (0, 2, 4, w 7)	0	I Extras (0, 2, 4, w 7)	0	I Extras (0, 2, 4, w 7)	0	I Extras (0, 2, 4, w 7)	0
Total (69.3 overs) — 184		Total (69.3 overs) — 184		Total (69.3 overs) — 184		Total (69.3 overs) — 184		Total (69.3 overs) — 184		Total (69.3 overs) — 184	
FALCON: Watkin 12-3-21-3; Barwick 12-1-42-2; Scott 12-0-45-2		FALCON: Watkin 12-3-21-3; Barwick 12-1-42-2; Scott 12-0-45-2		FALCON: Watkin 12-3-21-3; Barwick 12-1-42-2; Scott 12-0-45-2		FALCON: Watkin 12-3-21-3; Barwick 12-1-42-2; Scott 12-0-45-2		FALCON: Watkin 12-3-21-3; Barwick 12-1-42-2; Scott 12-0-45-2		FALCON: Watkin 12-3-21-3; Barwick 12-1-42-2; Scott 12-0-45-2	
R J Ainge c & b Caddick	8	R J Scott c & b Caddick	1	R J Scott c & b Caddick	1	R J Scott c & b Connor	1	R J Scott c & b Connor	1	R J Scott not out	12
S J Wright c & b Caddick	67	S J Wright c & b Caddick	1	S J Wright c & b Caddick	1	S J Wright c & b Connor	1	S J Wright c & b Connor	1	S J Wright not out	12
G D Hodson c & b Caddick	17	G D Hodson c & b Caddick	1	G D Hodson c & b Caddick	1	G D Hodson c & b Connor	1	G D Hodson c & b Connor	1	G D Hodson not out	12
M W Alleyne c & b MacLennan	17	M W Alleyne c & b MacLennan	1	M W Alleyne c & b MacLennan	1	M W Alleyne c & b Connor	1	M W Alleyne c & b Connor	1	M W Alleyne not out	12
J T C Vaughan c & b Caddick	10	J T C Vaughan c & b Caddick	1	J T C Vaughan c & b Caddick	1	J T C Vaughan c & b Connor	1	J T C Vaughan c & b Connor	1	J T C Vaughan not out	12
C A Wash c MacLennan b Hayhurst	10	C A Wash c MacLennan b Hayhurst	1	C A Wash c MacLennan b Hayhurst	1	C A Wash c MacLennan b Hayhurst	1	C A Wash c MacLennan b Hayhurst	1	C A Wash not out	12
A M Tavaré c & b Hayhurst	6	A M Tavaré c & b Hayhurst	1	A M Tavaré c & b Hayhurst	1	A M Tavaré c & b Connor	1	A M Tavaré c & b Connor	1	A M Tavaré not out	12
R J Mallender c & b Walsh	10	R J Mallender c & b Walsh	1	R J Mallender c & b Walsh	1	R J Mallender c & b Connor	1	R J Mallender c & b Connor	1	R J Mallender not out	12
R J Scott c & b Walsh	10	R J Scott c & b Walsh	1	R J Scott c & b Walsh	1	R J Scott c & b Connor	1	R J Scott c & b Connor	1	R J Scott not out	12
R D Caddick c & b Walsh	10	R D Caddick c & b Walsh	1	R D Caddick c & b Walsh	1	R D Caddick c & b Connor	1	R D Caddick c & b Connor	1	R D Caddick not out	12
R J Scott c & b Walsh	10	R J Scott c & b Walsh	1	R J Scott c & b Walsh	1	R J Scott c & b Connor	1	R J Scott c & b Connor	1	R J Scott not out	12
R D Caddick c & b Walsh	10	R D Caddick c & b Walsh	1	R D Caddick c & b Walsh	1	R D Caddick c & b Connor	1	R D Caddick c & b Connor	1	R D Caddick not out	12
R J Scott c & b Walsh	10	R J Scott c & b Walsh	1	R J Scott c & b Walsh	1	R J Scott c & b Connor	1	R J Scott c & b Connor	1	R J Scott not out	12
R D Caddick c & b Walsh	10	R D Caddick c & b Walsh	1	R D Caddick c & b Walsh	1	R D Caddick c & b Connor	1	R D Caddick c & b Connor	1	R D Caddick not out	12
R J Scott c & b Walsh	10	R J Scott c & b Walsh	1	R J Scott c & b Walsh	1	R J Scott c & b Connor	1	R J Scott c & b Connor	1	R J Scott not out	12
R D Caddick c & b Walsh	10	R D Caddick c & b Walsh	1	R D Caddick c & b Walsh	1	R D Caddick c & b Connor	1	R D Caddick c & b Connor	1	R D Caddick not out	12
R J Scott c & b Walsh	10	R J Scott c & b Walsh	1	R J Scott c & b Walsh	1	R J Scott c & b Connor	1	R J Scott c & b Connor	1	R J Scott not out	12
R D Caddick c & b Walsh	10	R D Caddick c & b Walsh	1	R D Caddick c & b Walsh	1	R D Caddick c & b Connor	1	R D Caddick c & b Connor	1	R D Caddick not out	12
R J Scott c & b Walsh	10	R J Scott c & b Walsh	1	R J Scott c & b Walsh	1	R J Scott c &amp					

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SPORT 33

**Williams deal with The Professor said to be done all bar the public shouting**

# Mansell stalls as Prost waits

By NORMAN HOWELL

AS the rain poured onto Silverstone yesterday evening, Nigel Mansell confessed that the one thing he disliked in motor racing was vagaries of the weather.

"My toughest race was in Canada, in the wet. And France last week was hard, too. There was a start, then a stop and a restart. We had to change from slicks to wet weather tyres. If I could express a preference, I'd say that only one per cent of my driving passion is expressed in the rain."

Even that may be enough to propel him even further along the road to his first world title. This English circuit, which Mansell particularly loves — "the best in the world" — and which has seen him as a great protagonist over the years, from victories to retirements, is particularly suited to the Williams-Renault.

They have the power, the aerodynamics and the active ride to see off everything else on the grid. McLaren have still not sorted out their chassis problems, though they have introduced a space-age workstation above each car in the pits.

A wag has already commented that the team might have been advised to spend that money on getting the chassis right.

Of course, things are not as easy as that, but Ayrton Senna, the current world champion, must be thinking by now that there is not much chance of his catching the Englishman.

Mansell has once more reiterated that he does not wish to see the current driver line-up changed as he likes driving with Riccardo Patrese "who has done so much, together with me, to develop this car".

Mansell has confirmed that he has been offered a contract. "But I first want to know who will drive with me and whether I will have the priority use of the spare or 'T' car," he added.

It is worth explaining that, in most teams, the "T" car is allocated on a rotational system, so that drivers will have an equal chance, especially during qualifying sessions. But at Williams the car is always Mansell's.

That means that Patrese, if he needs to swap cars and if Mansell does not require it, will have to wait at least 20 minutes while the spare is set up for him.

Naturally, Alain Prost or Senna, whose names have been associated with the other seat — assuming that Patrese is on the way out — would not tolerate that kind of arrangement. So Mansell would be denied that comfort zone he so clearly relishes, as well as the status of No. 1 driver.

But there are more and more indications that Prost, the three-time Formula One world champion known as "The Professor", has signed with Williams. Usually well-informed sources have said that the deal has been struck.

If the sources are correct and assuming Mansell eventually agrees to the deal, the two would be together again after their less-than-happy experiences with Ferrari during the 1990 season.

The only reason the deal has not been made public is that there is a worry within the Williams camp that this would upset Mansell and lead to some emotional outburst which might harm his chances of winning the championship.

What is certain is that Mansell does not know what is happening. He asked the media all to go to Frank Williams and ask him what was going on. I mean this tongue-in-cheek... well... not that tongue-in-cheek really."

Then the telephone rang near Mansell and, quick as a flash, the driver quipped: "That'll be Ricky, saying he wants to drive with me next year."

The Ricky in question is Patrese and, at least officially, he is very happy to partner Mansell and stay in a team with such an outstanding car.

Ultimately he is not under pressure at Silverstone, but the English drivers, notably Mansell, Martin Brundle and Johnny Herbert, certainly are. Suddenly the English connection in motor racing is also in the driver's seat, not the corridor of power or the workshop. Three Englishmen on the podium is not an impossibility for Sunday's race.



Mansell and his wife Rosanne take a ride on two wheels for a change

**SHOOTING**

## Gurkhas continue to fire

THE Gurkhas continued their success at the Services Skill at Arms meeting at Bisley yesterday, showing that their corps troops and the Gurkha Demonstration Company at Sandhurst could also produce winners (our rifle shooting correspondent writes).

Some of their major rivals in the team events were the battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, which recently took in the Ulster Defence Regiment.

The 1/2 Gurkha Rifles won the Northamptonshire Cup in the major units rifle team match. Series A for optical sights, with the 4th Royal Irish 43 points behind them and three in front of the Sixth Gurkhas.

The UDR Trophy, for iron sights, went to the Queen's Own Gurkha Signals and the Queen's Own Highlanders' Cup for optical sights teams to the Gurkha Demonstration Company, while the Gurkha Royal Engineers took another iron sights trophy, the Western Command Cup.

The FIBUA match was another tussle between the Gurkhas and Irish.

RESULTS: Services Match: Champion: Army Services Match; Champion: Queen's Own Highlanders (QOH); 2nd: 2nd Sqn H. R. Regt.; 3rd: Sqn F. (MTC); 3rd: Northamptonshire; 4th: Royal Irish; 5th: Royal Artillery; 6th: Royal Engineers; 7th: Royal Artillery; 8th: Royal Artillery; 9th: Royal Artillery; 10th: Royal Artillery; 11th: Royal Artillery; 12th: Royal Artillery; 13th: Royal Artillery; 14th: Royal Artillery; 15th: Royal Artillery; 16th: Royal Artillery; 17th: Royal Artillery; 18th: Royal Artillery; 19th: Royal Artillery; 20th: Royal Artillery; 21st: Royal Artillery; 22nd: Royal Artillery; 23rd: Royal Artillery; 24th: Royal Artillery; 25th: Royal Artillery; 26th: Royal Artillery; 27th: Royal Artillery; 28th: Royal Artillery; 29th: Royal Artillery; 30th: Royal Artillery; 31st: Royal Artillery; 32nd: Royal Artillery; 33rd: Royal Artillery; 34th: Royal Artillery; 35th: Royal Artillery; 36th: Royal Artillery; 37th: Royal Artillery; 38th: Royal Artillery; 39th: Royal Artillery; 40th: Royal Artillery; 41st: Royal Artillery; 42nd: Royal Artillery; 43rd: Royal Artillery; 44th: Royal Artillery; 45th: Royal Artillery; 46th: Royal Artillery; 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FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

IAN STEWART

British great retires from international athletics

# Thompson drops out of race against time

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

**DALEY THOMPSON**, Britain's finest-ever all-round athlete, announced his retirement from international athletics yesterday after his last desperate attempt to qualify for a fifth Olympic Games was cut short by injury.

"Nobody has a divine right, and if you can't make the grade you don't deserve to be there. I didn't make the grade," Thompson, twice the Olympic champion and the still holder of the world record, said.

Thompson, aged 33 but without a decathlon victory for the last six years, went to Crystal Palace yesterday morning for a ten-event competition which he hoped would enable him to share with Tessa Sanderson a piece of history. If he could score 7,850 points he would be on the plane to Barcelona. But he did not score any points.

Now Sanderson goes alone as the first British athlete to compete at five Olympics.

After three false starts in the first event, the 100 metres, one caused by him, Thompson burst from his blocks but did not reach halfway before a

## DALEY THOMPSON FACTFILE



Thompson: bowing out

Born: Kensington, London, July 30, 1958  
Club: Newham and Essex Peoples  
Height: 5ft 9in. Weight: 13st 12lb  
Decathlon highlights (all scored on 1985 decathlon tables)  
1975: World open 6,700pts, first UK v France (Olympic) 7,100 (UK junior record), second  
1976: AAA championships (Olympic) 7,684 (UK all-comers record), Montreal Olympics, 7,434, eighth  
international, Tbilisi, Georgia (world junior, UK and Commonwealth record)  
1977: Gothenburg, 7,921 (world junior, UK and Commonwealth record); 1978: Los Angeles Olympics, 8,847 (world record), first  
1979: USA v Canada (Athens) 8,683, first European championships (Edinburgh) 8,811, first  
1980: World championships (Rome), 8,123, ninth  
1981: Gothenburg, 8,238 (UK and Commonwealth record); Commonwealth Games, 8,308, fourth

lasting five seconds. In one of the most bizarre fixtures in British athletics history, a decathlon had been hastily arranged to give Thompson one last shot at qualifying for the Olympics.

Never, in his illustrious career, which took him to two Olympic, one world, two European and three Commonwealth gold medals and four world records, had he attempted a decathlon in England.

and the Bennetts were not going to miss it.

But he was not overwhelmed with support; a couple of hundred at most in a 17,000-capacity stadium. "It's the first time I've watched him," Mrs Bennett was saying as the first event, the 100 metres, got under way. "I just wanted to see him compete."

And for five seconds she caught a first-hand glimpse of Thompson in glorious flight: at 45 metres Thompson, aged 33 and four years on from his last decathlon, was leading. But it was over in the bite of a sandwich.

"Oh no," Mrs Bennett cried as Thompson pulled up in agony, his hamstring torn and his chance of competing in his fifth Olympics gone. So, like the Ashford schoolchildren, the Bennetts packed up and left. Seven other decathletes carried on the show but what had they ever won?

Photographers swarmed round Thompson, as he lay on the ground, taking pictures to illustrate the last chapter of his long and controversial career.

But Thompson was not ready to mourn. Instead he gave us a joke. "It's okay guys," he shouted. "Andy Norman is fixing me up with a one-hour decathlon tomorrow."

Yesterday's affair had been a crude attempt at yanking Thompson onto the Olympic team. Norman, Britain's promotions officer, had been party to the last-minute rush to put on a decathlon before tonight's deadline. It was Thompson's last option after he had withdrawn before half-way in his previous attempt in Norway, on Saturday.

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Kingston 081 546 5040 Swiss Cottage 071 222 7810  
Loughton 081 302 4123 Weybridge 0932 859590

BY ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE next cricket World Cup is to be the biggest and most spectacular the game has seen. But who will stage it remained unclear yesterday, when England's confidence on the matter was shattered by determined opposition from South Africa.

The annual meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC), which concluded at Lord's yesterday, decided that 12 teams will take part in the next tournament rather than the nine who participated in Australasia early this year.

The ICC, however, failed to decide on a host nation, which may be bad news for England.

Only a week ago, Alan Smith, chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board, said he expected no counterfeits, specifically from South Africa, when England put their case for hosting the event for the fourth time, probably in 1995.

As one of the United Kingdom delegates at the ICC, Smith will presumably have been shaken by the scale and seriousness of South African competition.

It had enough of an effect on the meeting for a decision



Record round: Attentive audience for Curry on the 17th green yesterday

## Curry hits first tour 60 but feels robbed by missed putt

By Mitchell Plans  
golf correspondent  
**PAUL CURRY** yesterday created history on the King's course at Gleneagles when he became the first player to score 60 on British soil in a PGA European Tour event. Curry, 31, gathered seven birdies and two eagles in the second round of the Bell's Scottish Open and he shares the lead with the American, Mark Brooks (63), on 128, 12 under par.

Curry was somewhat subdued because he missed a putt of 20ft on the 18th green. If the ball had disappeared into the sanctuary of the hole then he would have become the first player in a European Tour event to score 59. "I'm pleased but I'm still disappointed," he said. "You don't get many chances to shoot 59, do you?"

Chip Beck scored 59 in the Las Vegas Invitational tournament last year and he and Al Geiberger (1977) are the only players to have broken 60 in official events on the US PGA Tour.

Curry has every reason to hope the poor drive he hit to the right at the 15th. He could only chop the ball forward from out of the deep rough with the result that he dropped his only shot of the round. "I think the possibility of shooting

59 sank in when I stood on that tee," Curry said. "I felt fairly nervous."

Even so, Curry is likely to be £16,000 the richer because Johnnie Walker offer a bonus.

which rolls up from tourna-

ment to tournament to any

player who establishes a new course record. Not so long ago

such a sum would have been

little change to Curry al-

though that would appear no

longer to be the case.

Curry had won little more

than £200,000 during a 13-

year career but his future in financial terms seemed secure

because he owned 36 per cent of the Quietwaters club near Colchester, Essex, where he was born. He went into the project with his father, Bob, a property developer, and at one time Quietwaters was valued at £20 million. It is now in the hands of the receivers and on the open market.

"I've tried not to allow it to affect me but I suppose subconsciously it has," he said. "It is hard not to when you think that if I had got up and running then I would have had 36 per cent of £20 million.

The builders failed to meet their deadline by a year and that was that. My father and I have already lost a lot of money, in my case about half a million pounds, but there is still a chance that we might get it back. I hope so because that was my father's dream."

Curry's dream has been to win a tournament. He came within a whisker in 1990 when he was runner-up in the AGF Open. But he has struggled this season, escaping the halfway guillotine in only half the 16 events in which he has competed, and two weeks ago he took himself off to Florida to seek advice from David Leadbetter.

"I've known him longer than Nick Faldo has," Curry said. "He changed a couple of things, basically with my address position, and put me back on track. I had been playing very poorly and I was apprehensive coming in here. I hope the 60 signals a change in the right direction."

Brooks, three times a winner on the US Tour, maintained his challenge for the £100,000 first prize with 63. He had six birdies and an eagle on the 18th where he hit a fine iron to four feet.

Curry's round hole-by-hole

King's course, Gleneagles: Par 70 (6,739 yards); Course nine — 36 (3,327 yards); Total 106 (10,066 yards)

Holes 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 Par 4 4 4 4 4 4 5 3 4 4 4 3 3 5 4 3 4 4 Total

Curry 3 4 4 4 2 3 2 4 3 3 4 2 5 2 4 4 3 5 4 3 4 Total

Notes: 3 wood, 8 iron to 128, 1 putt; 3 wood, 8 iron, chip to 40, 1 putt; 3rd: 3 wood, 6 iron; Driver, 4 wood short, chip to 11, 1 putt; 5th: 4 iron to 308, 1 putt; 6th: 3 wood, 8 iron, 2 putt; 7th: Driver, 5 iron to 178, 2 putt; 8th: 3 wood, 8 iron, 2 putt; 9th: 3 wood, 8 iron, 2 putt; 10th: Driver, 5 iron to 122, 2 putt; 11th: 3 wood, 8 iron, 2 putt; 12th: Driver, 5 iron to 178, 2 putt; 13th: 3 wood, 8 iron, 2 putt; 14th: Driver to 238, 1 putt; 15th: Driver, 5 iron, sand wedge to 208, 2 putt; 16th: 3 wood, 8 iron, 2 putt; 17th: 3 wood, 8 iron over green, chip to 40, 1 putt; 18th: Driver, 6 iron to 208, 2 putt.

Par 3 wood, 8 iron, 2 putt; 17th: 3 wood, 8 iron, 2 putt; 18th: 3 wood, 8 iron, 2 putt.

Total 106 (3,327 yards) ..... 294

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-123, 2-133, 3-179, 4-183, 5-194, 6-205, 7-225, 8-226, 9-227, 10-228, 11-229, 12-230, 13-231, 14-232, 15-233, 16-234, 17-235, 18-236, 19-237, 20-238, 21-239, 22-240, 23-241, 24-242, 25-243, 26-244, 27-245, 28-246, 29-247, 30-248, 31-249, 32-250, 33-251, 34-252, 35-253, 36-254, 37-255, 38-256, 39-257, 40-258, 41-259, 42-260, 43-261, 44-262, 45-263, 46-264, 47-265, 48-266, 49-267, 50-268, 51-269, 52-270, 53-271, 54-272, 55-273, 56-274, 57-275, 58-276, 59-277, 60-278, 61-279, 62-280, 63-281, 64-282, 65-283, 66-284, 67-285, 68-286, 69-287, 70-288, 71-289, 72-290, 73-291, 74-292, 75-293, 76-294, 77-295, 78-296, 79-297, 80-298, 81-299, 82-300, 83-301, 84-302, 85-303, 86-304, 87-305, 88-306, 89-307, 90-308, 91-309, 92-310, 93-311, 94-312, 95-313, 96-314, 97-315, 98-316, 99-317, 100-318, 101-319, 102-320, 103-321, 104-322, 105-323, 106-324, 107-325, 108-326, 109-327, 110-328, 111-329, 112-330, 113-331, 114-332, 115-333, 116-334, 117-335, 118-336, 119-337, 120-338, 121-339, 122-340, 123-341, 124-342, 125-343, 126-344, 127-345, 128-346, 129-347, 130-348, 131-349, 132-350, 133-351, 134-352, 135-353, 136-354, 137-355, 138-356, 139-357, 140-358, 141-359, 142-360, 143-361, 144-362, 145-363, 146-364, 147-365, 148-366, 149-367, 150-368, 151-369, 152-370, 153-371, 154-372, 155-373, 156-374, 157-375, 158-376, 159-377, 160-378, 161-379, 162-380, 163-381, 164-382, 165-383, 166-384, 167-385, 168-386, 169-387, 170-388, 171-389, 172-390, 173-391, 174-392, 175-393, 176-394, 177-395, 178-396, 179-397, 180-398, 181-399, 182-400, 183-401, 184-402, 185-403, 186-404, 187-405, 188-406, 189-407, 190-408, 191-409, 192-410, 193-411, 194-412, 195-413, 196-414, 197-415, 198-416, 199-417, 200-418, 201-419, 202-420, 203-421, 204-422, 205-423, 206-424, 207-425, 208-426, 209-427, 210-428, 211-429, 212-430, 213-431, 214-432, 215-433, 216-434, 217-435, 218-436, 219-437, 220-438, 221-439, 222-440, 223-441, 224-442, 225-443, 226-444, 227-445, 228-446, 229-447, 230-448, 231-449, 232-450, 233-451, 234-452, 235-453, 236-454, 237-455, 238-456, 239-457, 240-458, 241-459, 242-460, 243-461, 244-462, 245-463, 246-464, 247-465, 248-466, 249-467, 250-468, 251-469, 252-470, 253-471, 254-472, 255-473, 256-474, 257-475, 258-476, 259-477, 260-478, 261-479, 262-480

**MOTORING** p7  
The art  
of high-speed  
driving that  
saves life



# LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

## Watching with mother in mind

The chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council is taking steps to protect the nation from violent male fantasies

**W**hen Lord Rees-Mogg took on the Broadcasting Standards Council he knew it would make him an object of ridicule like Mary Whitehouse before him. "Oh yes, the only way in which one's opponents hit back is by ridicule," he says equably. "They don't tend to defend slasher films."

Many are great and good, but few have the nerve and moral fibre to confront the liberal media establishment (and especially to censure Melvyn Bragg) as Lord Rees-Mogg has this week, achieving front page coverage, including a mammoth *Daily Mirror* headline "TV: TOO VIOLENT" for his council's annual report.

Fearlessly, from his great height, he has taken the part of women. Women, he points out, are the majority of the population; women bring up children and run the home; women are the victims of sexual violence; but they are powerless in the face of male-dominated broadcasters who intrude their rape fantasies into the living-room.

When he travelled across the land with his colleagues — including two men of the cloth: two women, the Labour MP Alf Dubs, and Richard Baker — to canvass popular attitudes and draw up a code, Lord Rees-Mogg discovered that the television set, the omnipresent fixture in the corner (and increasingly in children's bedrooms) is so much part of family life that if it offends against domestic principles it becomes threatening, "an alien presence in the home".

"Protecting children was the dominant theme. Mothers want to defend the home. They want the home to be a place of civilisation, a place of calm, and a place of security. And they associate this with certain uses of language inside the home, and regard breaches of that by broadcasters as intolerable because of undermining this idea of the secure and civilised home."

**T**here was, he says, no significant difference between the views of young and old, nor between ethnic groups and others, nor between the different regions. "What emerged was a society with a widespread similarity of point of view."

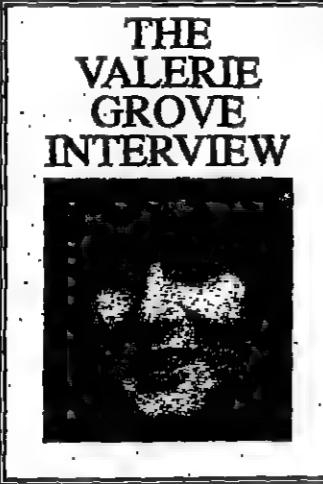
"And what was fascinating was that society takes its standards basically from the mother. The father may be used as a vague threat — 'Wait till your father gets home' — but it is the mother who sets moral standards. The children are conscious of the mother being the major authority." Even in his own family, he feels that his wife has had the stronger influence on the moral character of their children. "We got a very clear picture of how men are regarded as perpetual boys to a surprising extent the father is a sort of extra son that the mother has to put up with, who goes out and does things with other men in a rather childlike way."

"Like the Garrick Club?"

"Absolutely. Very much. I am sure many wives feel relief when the man is safely tucked away in the Garrick."

In the hushed dining room of a small hotel off St James's, over a hearty English breakfast, Lord Rees-Mogg discusses the words we now refer to by their initial letters only. "There has been a change in the relative offence caused by the f word," said Lord Rees-Mogg, "but not by the c word. The c word is regarded as highly offensive at any time of the day or night, when broadcast. The f word is acceptable in context later in the evening. People know their children are familiar with it, they use it in the playground and so on — but they are principally worried that it should not become a normal word in the home. This teaches children the idea of context that there are things they might say with their friends that they should not say to their parents."

The arbiter of national taste, 64 next week, lives in Rab Butler's old house in Smith Square, and spends weekends in a Palladian house near Bristol; he is a Balliol man, a former president of the Oxford Union, a pillar of the Roman



Lord Rees-Mogg: "Did you notice that for a long time every scene in which men conspired together, they chose to do it in urinals? Once you couldn't have done that"

incest taboo: If you de-priveise sex and make it a public thing, then I think you are more likely to get sexual abuse of children, because an initial safeguard curtain has been removed. So I have some sympathy with people who say that actually society was better protected at a time when sex was regarded as private.

"But I don't think you can reverse these things. Once a taboo has been torn down it can't be put back again. Did you notice that for a long time every scene in which men conspired together, they chose to do it in urinals? Once you couldn't have done that; and then it was shown that you could, so they did it all the time."

"There is a post-Freudian set of assumptions about how taboos arise in society, what they are for, how far breaking them down serves a healthy purpose: these state that repression is bad because the

encourages imitative violence, but any policeman can tell you tales of women found trussed and bound in exact replication of pornographic videos. "Undoubtedly pornography is associated with many sexual crimes; but then you find it is used by the defence as a palliative: 'He was corrupted by pornography,'" says Lord Rees-Mogg with care.

"The psychological network of causation can never be established with certainty, this as in other areas." But when asked, in an earlier interview, whether paternalism about moral values was not inappropriate in the late 20th century, he replied that pornography was indefensible: sadistic anti-women, destructive of children, having no place on television or in the cinema.

Lord Rees-Mogg is fond of the analogy from advertising: nobody questions that beer commercials sell beer, so it would have to be disproved rather than proved that screening violence does not sell violence. "Hard-headed businessmen spend enormous amounts advertising their products, and presumably can measure the results. If it were true that communications had no effect, then they would all be a waste of time. Can it be said that portraying rape fantasies in films does not reinforce rape fantasies for people watching?"

This brings us to Mr Bragg's *A Time To Dance*, singled out by the BSC for censure. "A young girl, Bernadette Kennedy aged 14, is struggling violently against a man of about 55... The terrified girl thrashes to be free of him but he is immensely stronger and eventually he penetrates her. This causes him to let go of his grip on her mouth and she screams — a most terrible sound."

In his preface to the published screenplay of *A Time To Dance*, the above is from the opening scene. Mr Bragg explained how, in the novel, "the rape is a late and reluctant confession. In fact, I underplayed it." But when translating his novel onto film, the character of Bernadette had to be given "parity" with the bank manager. "This means starting with the rape," he declared.

Thus, speciously, he hoped to justify that headlong plunge into the rape scene at 9.05pm on a Sunday night. "Had the rape appeared later," Mr Bragg wrote, "it would have risked appearing as an excuse." Mr Bragg told *The Times* on Wednesday that he received letters from more than 300 women "identifying with her (Bernadette) and saying they appreciated the programme."

There may be no proof that it

"I find it hard to believe," mused Lord Rees-Mogg, "that he had 300 letters saying 'jolly good rape scene'."

That scene had made him feel "very uncomfortable. I didn't like it. Then the complaints came in." How many? "Can't remember." "More than 300?" "Oh no, less than that. Relatively few write in. But you never know how many people are represented by the number writing in."

He believes that things would be different, though I am not convinced about this, if there were more women in senior posts in television. He suggests an inquiry: how many women have the power to determine what goes on the box? how many have independent budget control? How many mothers achieve power in broadcasting?

"Child-bearing has been a very great career handicap. We were aware at the BBC" (when he was deputy chairman) "that producer careers go through a funnel from trainee through to executive stages, between 27 and 35, precisely at the ages women who have children have to be away. We found that men who have prejudices against senior jobs for women are quite common."

Lord Rees-Mogg, "that he had 300 letters saying 'jolly good rape scene'."

prejudice have become as offensive as the most offensive of the sexual swear words." "Nigger, we found, is a word people cannot bring themselves to say. Derogatory terms for Jews are in the same category. But you can still call a Frenchman a Frog without anyone falling under the table, and the Australians can call us whingeing Poms."

I watched him handling an 18th-century book — a volume of *Cook's Journal*, 1775 — with loving care, discussing on its binding, its primer, its original owner. What could be further from this man's emotional interests than the work of Brian de Palma or Michael Winner? When Mrs Thatcher appointed him, he thought the council was "quite likely to be ineffective". But he thinks, with one year of his chairmanship still to go, that they have "made something sensible" of it; even the Labour

Party, he says, no longer threatens to abolish it. So what has been achieved? "I think we've now got in effect a ruling that the ITC network is not to show slasher films [in which women are subjected to frenzied knife attacks], I think that is a real step forward, because they have nothing to be said for them."

Quite. If the maternalistic woman wants *Dressed to Kill*, *Jagged Edge*, *He Knows You're Alone* or *Cape Fear* kept out of family reach, the paternalistic Lord Rees-Mogg — "Michael Winner once said I was the most dangerous man in Britain, which I thought was a compliment of sorts" — is our man.

### TOMORROW

Win a champagne weekend in France

If you de-priveise sex and make it a public thing, then I think you are more likely to get sexual abuse of children'

Mill's On



repressed material tends to fester, and stripping taboos out will lead to an unpressed and therefore healthier society. I think these propositions are unexamined and are actually extremely dubious. One could well make a counter-assumption that in order to make society work you need to have taboos and you need to have material repressed. What is worrying — again it's a power question — is that people with powerful access to the media impose the destruction of taboos on people who haven't been asked, and would probably prefer to maintain them."

He is not a Mrs Whitehouse figure, swift to chide. He may look like the fastidious type whose glasses would steam up at the sight of *The Singing Detective's* heaving buttocks, but he is too intellectual, too carefully meditative, too aware of the changing times for that. Is it ever "necessary" to show sexual activity on the screen? "It is all part of the process of stripping society of its taboos, which I think has been done recklessly, in that I don't think anyone who was doing it seriously asked themselves what the taboos were for, why they existed."

"Why is sex private? why is going to the loo private? do they serve some function? I suspect they do, or did. And one of the functions of the privacy of sex is to reinforce the

*Dance*, singled out by the BSC for censure. "A young girl, Bernadette Kennedy aged 14, is struggling violently against a man of about 55... The terrified girl thrashes to be free of him but he is immensely stronger and eventually he penetrates her. This causes him to let go of his grip on her mouth and she screams — a most terrible sound."

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## PAULINE COLLINS

**W**hen he edited *The Times*, William Rees-Mogg introduced its first women's page, appointed female news and features editors and foreign correspondents; he was also the editor who gave us the first naked woman in *The Times* ("I didn't see any difficulty about it") in a Fisons advert on page 3 — a dubious gesture that owed more to the 1960s than any mature consideration of principle.

(He did not, incidentally, vote at the Garrick on Monday night over the admission of women. "I simply felt that the majority were entitled to have their way, and I didn't have strong feelings about it," he said, adding that Lady Rees-Mogg is a member of the Reform Club.)

The Broadcasting Standards Council has no power to censor. All it can do is receive complaints, and represent the interests of the audience. "This is the only reasonable response to the proliferation of channels," says Lord Rees-Mogg. "The audience's voice needs to be very firmly asserted." Subscribers to satellite channels get what they want by paying; their only complaint is the trailing of violent films on the ordinary channels. He finds the film culture of Hollywood "very disturbed, and immensely defensive about what it is doing".

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"I have never had any doubt that all societies actually have to protect themselves from something," he says, "and they do so in various ways. For instance in the United States they are rightly very worried about racial prejudice and the political correctness thing really grows out of that."

Here, he notes, words of racial

**Shades**

by SHARON MACDONALD

LIMITED SEASON

Directed by SIMON CALLOW

ALBERY THEATRE

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at 4.00pm and 8.00pm

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**TERRELL MOUTH** The Almeda Opera Festival presents the world premiere of Nigel Osborne's new opera. Commissioned by BBC Radio 3, the work is a collaboration with playwrights Alan Ayckbourn and with a cast that includes Clive Bayley, Omar Ebrahim, Richard Van Allan and Elizabeth Laurence. David Pountney directs a cast that includes Clive Bayley, Omar Ebrahim, Richard Van Allan and Elizabeth Laurence. Almeda Theatre, Almeda Street, N1 (071-359 4404), tonight, Sun (further performances next week).

**AUSTRALIAN BALLET** The company performs the ever-popular ballet *Giselle*, the story of a gentle peasant girl driven to her grave by the betrayal of her aristocratic lover, and the British premiere of Steven Baynes' *Catalyst*, set in a futuristic city. Royal Albert Hall, Coliseum, 51 Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 1611), tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, Sat 8pm (further performances available online).

**NEW LONDON CHILDREN'S CHOIR** Soprano Mary Wigold and the Composers Ensemble join the choir in a programme of songs from the past and recently composed works by Henryk Górecki, John Woolrich, Roger Steene, Colin Hues and Philip Cashen. Ronald Corp conducts St James's Piccadilly, London SW1 (071-432 4550) or tickets available on the door from 7pm, tonight, 7.30pm.

The session of plays by amateur female writers continues at the Lyric. Tonight and tomorrow, final term students from the London Academy of Performing Arts perform *Timberlake Wertenbaker's* play under the direction of Celia Sauer. Next week, Caryl Churchill's play,

**DEATH AND THE MAIDEN** Ane Corffman's scorching psychological drama on the longing for revenge: Geraldine James, Michael Byrne and Pauline Quirke. The Duke of York's Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs., 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 10.30pm.

**DEAVAU** Jeremy Porter 36 years on. Osborne's hero rants and raves but in a vacuum, and Peter Egan seems too good for his own good. The Man Comedy, Pantomine Street, W1 (071-707 1045) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs., 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 8.30pm.

**THE DYSRHYTHMIA** Julia Pascal's ground-breaking new version of the famous British drama, transposed to a present-day setting. The Old Vic, New End, 27 New End, Hampstead, NW3 (071-794 0022), Tues-Sun, 7.30pm, mat. Sun, 4pm, 8.30pm.

**GRAN HOTEL** Musical barley sugar, Berlin in the Twenties. Sentimental, American, entertaining Donmar Warehouse, 101 Great Titchfield Street, W1 (071-580 9562) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs., Sat, 2.30pm, 7.15pm.

**A JUDGEMENT IN STONE** Sheila Hancock leads a powerful cast in Ernest Rostand's based on a Ruth Rendell novel and a man left a very nice middle-class family. Lyric Hammersmith, King Street, W1 (071-741 2311) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Sat, 4pm, 10.30pm. Final week.

**THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III** Nigel Hawthorne is very fine as the stark raving King in Abigail Hopkins' much-praised, much-puzzled play. National (Lyceum), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 1252). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 2.15pm, 7.15pm.

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Ian Talbot's fully produced full of fun and frolics comedy continues at the Donmar Warehouse. Bottoms up! with a new cast and director. Donmar Warehouse, 101 Great Titchfield Street, W1 (071-580 9562) Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 3pm, 7.15pm.

**THE BEST INTENTIONS** Ingo Bergman's fascinating tale of his parents' turbulent courtship and their son's life, told by his son. August, Samuel Foley. Gate (071-727 4043) Lumière (071-836 0991)

**CURRENT** *BATMAN RETURNS* (12; Curve) but ho-hum sequel, best when the spotlight falls on Michelle Pfeiffer's Electrifying Catwoman. With Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito; director, Tim Burton. Warner Bros, 1000 Broadway, Barcian (071-882 8991) Camelot Parkway (071-167 7034) Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Baker Street (071-955 9773) MGM Fullham Road (071-223 4422) MGM Hammersmith (071-636 0310) MGM Thracian (071-434 0231) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Screen on the Green (071-228 3520) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3321)

**BIG WEDNESDAY** (PG) Unwanted return of John Mills' portentous 1978 hit. Director, Jan-Michael Vincent, William Fawcett, Glynis Barber. Prince Charles (071-397 8181).

**PEP, LUIC, BOMB** Outrageous adventures of three Madam women. Amusing if sheathed pipe from Pedro Almodovar, completed in 1980.

**A METROPOLIS** (12; Curve) A stellar comedy with stars and starchildren galore, but no good jokes. Hilary Wolf, Griffin Dunne, director, Joan Micklin Silver. MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) Metropole Court (071-727 6149) Colgate Mezzanine (071-915683)

**THE BEST INTENTIONS** (12; Curve) Ingo Bergman's fascinating tale of his parents' turbulent courtship and their son's life, told by his son. August, Samuel Foley. Gate (071-727 4043) Lumière (071-836 0991)

**ENTERTAINMENTS**

**ART GALLERIES** *LEEFIVE GALLERY* 30 Bruton St, W1 (071-2107 3977) *RECENT WORKS BY BETTY BROWN* 118 Upper Ground, EC1 (071-250 1126)

**CINEMAS** *CURZON MAYFAIR* Curzon St, Mayfair (071-937 1992) *THE LONG DAY CLOSES* (12) A film by Terence Davies. Previews 1.05, 2.06, 2.07, 2.08, 2.09, 2.10, 2.11, 2.12, 2.13, 2.14, 2.15, 2.16, 2.17, 2.18, 2.19, 2.20, 2.21, 2.22, 2.23, 2.24, 2.25, 2.26, 2.27, 2.28, 2.29, 2.30, 2.31, 2.32, 2.33, 2.34, 2.35, 2.36, 2.37, 2.38, 2.39, 2.40, 2.41, 2.42, 2.43, 2.44, 2.45, 2.46, 2.47, 2.48, 2.49, 2.50, 2.51, 2.52, 2.53, 2.54, 2.55, 2.56, 2.57, 2.58, 2.59, 2.60, 2.61, 2.62, 2.63, 2.64, 2.65, 2.66, 2.67, 2.68, 2.69, 2.70, 2.71, 2.72, 2.73, 2.74, 2.75, 2.76, 2.77, 2.78, 2.79, 2.80, 2.81, 2.82, 2.83, 2.84, 2.85, 2.86, 2.87, 2.88, 2.89, 2.90, 2.91, 2.92, 2.93, 2.94, 2.95, 2.96, 2.97, 2.98, 2.99, 2.100, 2.101, 2.102, 2.103, 2.104, 2.105, 2.106, 2.107, 2.108, 2.109, 2.110, 2.111, 2.112, 2.113, 2.114, 2.115, 2.116, 2.117, 2.118, 2.119, 2.120, 2.121, 2.122, 2.123, 2.124, 2.125, 2.126, 2.127, 2.128, 2.129, 2.130, 2.131, 2.132, 2.133, 2.134, 2.135, 2.136, 2.137, 2.138, 2.139, 2.140, 2.141, 2.142, 2.143, 2.144, 2.145, 2.146, 2.147, 2.148, 2.149, 2.150, 2.151, 2.152, 2.153, 2.154, 2.155, 2.156, 2.157, 2.158, 2.159, 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GALLERIES:  
CRITIC'S CHOICE**Dispatches from his particular hell**

**Richard Cork admires an exhibition of paintings by Wyndham Lewis that offers vivid evidence of the artist's sustained involvement with the theme of war**

**D**uring the uneasy months leading up to the outbreak of the first world war, much of the avant-garde art produced in London was powered by an urge to attack and destroy. Wyndham Lewis, editor of the Vorticist movement's aggressively titled *Blast* magazine, was the most keenly prepared to place this belligerence at the heart of his work. In an exultatory tirade written to announce the publication of *Blast* in July 1914, he cried: "We must kill John Bull with art!"

Lewis's fury was directed primarily at all those forces in British culture — philistinism, nostalgia, an unwillingness to engage in radical transformation — which he considered inimical to the growth of a vital new art. Images and words were his weapons, and none of the Vorticists looked forward to a real war with the alarming enthusiasm displayed by Marinetti in Italy. All the same, their boisterous and often volcanic behaviour in the first half of 1914 anticipated the war fever which gripped the entire country once hostilities against Germany were declared.

Although Lewis was bent on aesthetic revolution rather than a real military offensive, he found himself painting images which heralded political events in Europe with chilling accuracy. The most monumental was a tall canvas called *Plan of War*, where militant blocks of diagonally-thrusting form are enclosed in rigid outlines. The diagrammatic structures assume an awesome authority as they assemble on the picture-surface, preparing for battle.

The painting has long been lost, but a full-size photograph of it is displayed in the Imperial War Museum's excellent *Wyndham Lewis: Art and War* survey. And the rest of the show consists of original works, all testifying to Lewis's sustained involvement with a theme that made him lament, in 1937, that "with me war and art have been mixed up from the start... I wish I could get away from war".

In the summer of 1914 he had little choice. Images of implacable physical engagement occupied his mind, and a drawing called *Combat No 2* relies on a steely command of line to give three clusters of combatants a dehumanised conviction. The manifesto in *Blast* had described the Vorticist artists as "Primitive Mercenaries in the Modern World", and *Combat No 2* presents the sinister reality of a struggle to the death. Each pair of soldiers appears to have fused in an eerie dance, and the only resolution of their mechanistic writhings lies in a killing.

After volunteering as a gunner in

the Royal Artillery in 1916, Lewis regarded his training in England with sardonic humour. Even when he was moved to the firing line in France the following year, his levity continued. "Whizzing, banging, swishing and thudding completely surrounded me," he reported to his friend Ezra Pound, "and I almost jog up and down on my camp bed as though I were riding in a country wagon or a dilapidated taxi." A few days later, though, Lewis undertook a trip through a "never-ending and empty" terrain which prompted a more sombre mood. "This is the bad tract," he wrote, "the narrow and terrible wilderness."

The nearest he came to depicting this unnerving locale in the impressive sequence of drawings dating from 1918 is *Officer and Signalers*. Led by a figure who seems unaffected by injuries, the soldiers struggled through a lunar landscape pitted with craters and devoid of growth. A shell erupts nearby, but there is no doubt that the men will continue their walk despite the danger, and their stoicism reflects Lewis's own attitude towards the likelihood of death.

**T**he awakening of his interest in the reality of the Front Line meant that he had less difficulty adopting a more figurative idiom than some of his fellow Vorticists. While retaining the harsh formal discipline of his pre-war work, Lewis's drawings now convey a great deal of representational information about the soldiers and their surroundings. He was lucky, in this respect, to find himself inhabiting such a denuded place. For Lewis declared later that "those miles of hideous desert" had presented him "with a subject-matter so consonant with the austerity of that abstract vision I had developed, that it was an easy transition".

Although Lewis encountered plenty of corpses, he did not include them in his war images. Apart from a few drawings of heavy shelling, like the dark green eruptions punctuating *Great War No 2*, he also refrained from depicting the battle itself. Most of his 1918 work concentrated on battery positions, where figures are seen shell-humping, preparing for an attack, pulling at a siege battery or lighting cigarettes as they wait for a barrage to begin. A mysterious stillness prevails in many of these terse, dispassionate studies, far removed from the protesting anger of Paul Nash's finest war pictures.

Lewis arrived at an unearthly calm in the immense painting he produced as an official commission for the Canadian government. He chose to concentrate, in *A Canadian Gun Pit*, on the business of laying a heavy gun. The task absorbs the energies of the two men turning the wheel and adjusting the sights. But the third figure standing by the gun with hands in pockets seems uncertain of his function. So do the men who preside over the ranks of shells resting on sturdy wooden planks. The mask-like rigidity of their faces is disturbingly severe.

Perhaps Lewis intended them to play the role of a tragic chorus, grimly meditating on the destructive power which would be unleashed once those immense shells were hurled towards the enemy lines. He certainly emphasised the masses' weight by giving foreground prominence to the muscular efforts of one of the West Indians attached to Lewis's battery as lifters of shells. His black arms and pale pink shirt make him the most unexpected, arresting figure in the painting.

Despite the powerful air of dehumanised oppression, *A Canadian Gun Pit* seems laborious



Unearthly calm: *A Canadian Gun Pit*, 1918, a huge work produced by Lewis as an official commission for the Canadian government

*Gun Pit*, on the business of laying a heavy gun. The task absorbs the energies of the two men turning the wheel and adjusting the sights. But the third figure standing by the gun with hands in pockets seems uncertain of his function. So do the men who preside over the ranks of shells resting on sturdy wooden planks. The mask-like rigidity of their faces is disturbingly severe.

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Despite the powerful air of dehumanised oppression, *A Canadian Gun Pit* seems laborious

compared with the large painting Lewis produced for the British government in 1919. Asked to fill a canvas the size of Uccello's San Romano battle picture in the National Gallery, he devoted most of the space to the devastation caused by heavy bombardment.

**I**n *A Battery Shelled* Lewis draws on his plentiful experience of enemy attack, and shows how much he wondered at his ability to escape harm. The earth has been pounded into an acid-green lunar landscape, furrowed with maze-like patterns of mud. The rusty orange figures look cautious as they twist themselves into tortuous positions and search the pummelled ground. Their angular, metallic bodies are more mechanistic than their counterparts in Lewis's Canadian canvas, and in that respect *A Battery Shelled* is closer to earlier war images such as the 1914 *Combat* drawings.

Throughout this principal area of the painting an ingenious style,

poised halfway between Vorticism and the more representational idiom espoused by his official patrons, is incisively sustained. The splintered forms zigzagging their way through the chilled grey-white sky are difficult to distinguish from the equally shattered trunks of trees. Machine-age weapons and natural growths have both suffered catastrophic damage. But in the distance, all this charred and fragmented complexity leads on to a silent, bleached terrain, ominously prophetic of the "winter" world described by analysis of nuclear annihilation today.

Although this portion of the canvas remains comparatively faithful to the landscape Lewis described in 1917 as "our particular hell", he juxtaposed it with three bulky figures who contemplate the scene. They are handled in a far more representational manner, and at least two of them were apparently intended as portraits. The stylistic clash between the different parts of the painting is so incongruous that it

must have been quite deliberate. Lewis presumably wanted the three elegiac figures to embody his own realisation that "the war was a sleep deep and animal, in which I was new to me. Upon waking I found an altered world; and I had changed, too, very much".

By making the trio of soldiers stand apart from the rest of the scene, both physically and in stylistic terms, Lewis may have wanted them to signify his own post-war mood — newly awakened from this "sleep" and questioning the viability of the more "geometrical" idiom employed in the shell-wrecked landscape. All three men look as if they might be standing outside the canvas altogether. Even as these grave figures ruminate over the tragedy they endured, Lewis removes them from a way of seeing which now belongs to a past beyond recovery.

● Wyndham Lewis: *Art and War* is at the Imperial War Museum (071-116 5000) until October 11

● **FRED ZINNEMANN:** Although his first directorial job was working with the great American photographer Paul Strand on his film *The Wave*, film-maker Fred Zinnemann's own photography has been kept firmly under a bushel. In 1989, however, he donated his personal collection to the V & A, and this revealing display whets the appetite to know more. The pictures here were shot in New York City in 1932-33; the Depression and its human results are the subject of these pictures, as often chronicling New Yorkers' cheery resilience as their occasional despair.

**Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (071-938 8500). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun, 10am-5.50pm, until August 23.**

● **THE NEW DESIGNERS:** Around this time of year, as all the art schools put on their graduation shows, we hear a lot about the new painters and sculptors banging on the doors of the art establishment. But there are probably just as many graduating designers being unleashed on industry or setting up their own craft businesses. This four-day fair brings together more than 1000 graduates from more than 50 design colleges, and includes new glass, ceramics, metalwork, tableware, graphics, lighting, animation. Useful for the general public as well as for professionals.

**Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 (071-352 5355). Today, tomorrow, 10am-5pm, Sun, 10am-4pm.**

● **TENNYSON:** Alfred, Lord Tennyson was a Lincolnshire man, writing many dialect poems to prove it. It is suitable, therefore, that the principal marking of the centenary of his death should be in Lincoln. It covers the grandest of his social contacts, his friendship with Queen Victoria, through correspondence from the Royal Archives in Windsor, and contains much documentary material about his relations with great and famous contemporaries. But the visual side is not forgotten. Julia Margaret Cameron, a close friend of the poet, is most prominently featured among the photographers, with portraits of him and illustrations of his works. The illustrations of Edward Lear, another old friend, show to advantage, and there are numerous paintings inspired by Tennyson from the Pre-Raphaelites and other artists of the period.

**Usher Gallery, Linlithgow Road, Lincoln (0522 27980). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun, 2.30-5pm, until Sept 12.**

**JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR**

**GALLERIES: John Russell Taylor on the enigmatic art of the young painter Stephen Conroy**

**Myths made in the grand manner**

**T**he trouble with young artists who arrive with a bang is not so much that they end immediately with a whimper as that if the initial bang is big enough they are likely to go on trying to duplicate their early success with inexorably reducing effect. There are enough artists still around from the "Generation of '64" to prove the point. And it seems in several cases to be overtaking the "New Image" painters from Glasgow who took the art world by storm in 1985.

Stephen Conroy is younger — still only 28 — and arrived a bit later, in the "Vigorous Imagination" show of 1987. But he still has the problem of early success to contend with. Like the rest, he is strongly figurative and has his own brand of private imagery and personal myth.

Moreover, owing to a well-publicised dispute with his first dealers, his work was unseeable for a couple of crucial years, building up unfairly. Consequently, his first one-man show with Marlborough in 1989 was an instant sell-out, with a waiting list for anything else he might choose to paint.

This is an agreeable situation for a new painter, but also nerve-racking. Can he answer expectations without disappointing? Single works by Conroy shown at Marlborough in the last three years have suggested cause for concern. But now that he is given the full treatment with simultaneous one-man shows of his paintings at the main gallery and of prints and drawings at



A strong feeling of something in reserve: Stephen Conroy's *The Singer* (1991)

Marlborough Graphics, the fears are completely dispelled. That is, of course, for those who have liked his work. As is the case with all highly idiosyncratic painters, there are some who find much to criticise. For them Conroy is just a skilful pasticciatore, painting in a manner — Old Master or Modern British — it makes little difference — that nobody has a right to employ in the 1990s.

Somehow the fact that he does it with such brilliance

only makes matters worse. However, the point of any style is that it is a means to an end, a vehicle for the artist's ideas. And it so happens that painting in the style of, say, William Nicholson or early Glyn Philpot suits Conroy's ideas perfectly.

It is the ideas that are modern and bizarre. Some of his paintings, like the triptych *Alchymy*, come out in the open with their mystery; problem pictures in the classic fashion,

they ask their audience to interrogate them. But the mystery of the other works is more potent. Many of them appear to be straightforward portraits of sitters known or unknown. But there is always a strong feeling of something in reserve: behind what is seen there is clearly something unseen. Some curious, perhaps menacing atmosphere envelops these characters coolly placed in a neutral space.

One or two go further, like

the *Unfamiliar Environment* series. In the biggest, a formally dressed man seems to be prey to sudden weightlessness, as though in the Zone of Cocteau's *Orphée*. In others the sense of disturbance is unmistakable, though we probably have to wait for the final works for which these appear to be studies to discover precisely what baleful effect the environment is having on the two thieves or the man who may (or may not) be drowning.

Apparently this painting

show, too, was virtually sold out before it opened. Consequently the prints and drawings offer a good second resort for would-be purchasers.

Though many of the etchings and some of the drawings relate very directly to the recent paintings, they are not merely chips from the workbench. Conroy, like his turn-of-the-century forbears, also has a special feeling for the etching as an art form, and if it is to see a significant revival this decade, he will obviously be in the forefront there too.

● Stephen Conroy: Recent Paintings, Marlborough Fine Art, 5 Albermarle Street, London W1 (071-629 5161), Mon-Fri 10am to 5.30pm, Saturday 10am to July 25

● Stephen Conroy: Prints and Drawings, Marlborough Graphics, 42 Dover Street, London W1 (071-495 2642), Mon-Fri 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 2pm, until July 25

**ROCK: Alan Jackson on Glenn Frey at the Town and Country**

**Eagle's safe landing**

Some 20 years after The Eagles hit their country-rock stride and a full decade after their eventual demise, only two band members sustain a solo reputation. While Don Henley's work cultivates a rather self-conscious gravitas, Glenn Frey's four albums have revelled in the relaxed song structures and sentiments of mainstream Californian pop and rock. At best, this lends a pleasing simplicity to his songs, many of them written in collaboration with West Coast veteran Jack Tempchin. At worst, it has led him to embrace the trivial and the banal.

With a loyal crowd turning out at the Town and Country club to cheer him through his first solo British performance, Frey paraded both extremes with equal enthusiasm. Happi-

ly, the voice remains marvellously intact and "The One You Love", a song only marginally more distinguished than many of the other soft rock ballads which flourished on the American charts in the early 1980s, benefited greatly from a stoic understated delivery. The dismal "Sexy Girl" proved completely beyond rescue, however.

Frey forsook Los Angeles for Aspen recently and a new LP, *Strange Weather*, finds him

reflecting in new-found tranquillity on a not unfamiliar array of social, political and environmental issues. Ironically, the excellence of his seven-piece band, augmented here by four horn players and his own highly enjoyable guitar playing, only exposed the weakness of tracks such as "Love in the 21st Century" or "Brave New World", both well intentioned, but lyrically undramatic and musically predictable.

It seems churlish to report that Frey's oldest work remains his best. Yet the momentum and grace that he and his players brought to such familiar songs as "Peaceful Easy Feeling", "New Kid in Town" and "Layin' Eyes" suggested that the current revival of interest in the once terminally-unipoly Eagles is not undeserved.

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## Grand jour de fête

Towns come alive to celebrate the fall of the Paris Bastille

The idea of dancing in the streets to celebrate *liberté, égalité et fraternité* remains dear to French hearts, and it is still possible to find at least one *bal populaire* in most towns and villages. Undoubtedly the most popular and best known of these are the *bals de pompiers*, a tradition stretching back to the first impromptu dance held in a Monmartre fire station in 1937.

Organised by local firemen, these free dances are open to everyone and usually feature a local band playing accordion music. Check for details with the local fire station. Many *bals* are also held on the night of the 13th.

In most towns the council may also organise its own *bal populaire*, the most famous being the dance given by the *Mairie de Paris* in the Place de la Bastille. This year the *bal* will be held on Monday, from 9.30pm to 1.30am.

There is no better time to see military pageantry than during the July 14 parade along the Champs Elysées from the Arc de Triomphe to the Place de la Concorde. Starting at 9.30am, 3,800 of France's crack troops and 400 motorised vehicles will take part.

This year is the bicentenary of "The Marseillaise", and the parade will culminate in a rendition by the 460-strong French army choir.

Every town in France has its



Shining symbol: the Eiffel Tower comes to light

own miniature version of the *grand défilé militaire*. Check with local town halls or tourist offices for information on dates and times.

The evening of the 14th is reserved for the annual fireworks display. In Paris, it will start 10.30pm at the Palais de Chaillot and the Jardins de Trocadero. Eight of Europe's leading *artistes de la pyrotechnique* have created a 40-minute programme.

Here is a guide to some of the Bastille day events around France this summer:

Avgnon: July 14, 2.30pm, parachute display. Place des Quenconces, followed by fireworks display. July 14, 10pm, *bal populaire*, Place de la Comédie. Further details: 56 90 80 08.

Bordeaux: July 13, 8.45pm, military parade, Place des Quenconces, followed by fireworks display. July 14, 10pm, *bal populaire*, Place de la Comédie. Further details: 56 90 91 60.

Lyon: July 13, 6pm, military parade, Place Maréchal Lyautey; 10pm, *bal populaire*, Avenue Jean Mermoz; July 14, 9pm, free performance of two modern ballets by Lyon opera baller at Théâtre Romain de Fourvière; 10.15, *bal populaire*, Quai St Antoine. Further details: 78 42 25 75.

Marseille: July 14, 9am, military parade, Quai des Belges; 5.30pm, procession on La Canebière; 10.15pm, fireworks, Vieux Port. Further details: 91 54 91 11.

Mulhouse (20km west of Strasbourg), July 13, 10pm, *défilé de sardines*, 600 people in revolutionary costume will parade through the town centre; 11pm, fireworks, Place de la Foire. *Bal populaire*. Further details: 88 38 31 98.

Rouen: July 13, 9.30pm, disco, Quai Bas Jean Moulin; 11pm, fireworks, Pont Cornelle; 11.30pm, disco resumes until 1.30am; July 14, 10.45pm, military parade Boulevard Gambetta; 3pm, puppet show, Square Vendredi. Further details: 35 08 69 00.

Toulouse: July 13, opening ceremony, 9pm, and *bals populaires*; 9.30pm, Place de Capitole; July 14, 10.30am, military parade, Boulevard Carnot; 3pm, free operetta Rêve de Vienne, at the Théâtre de Capitole; 9.30pm, *bal populaire*, Place de Capitole; 10pm, fireworks, Prairie des Filles. Further details: 61 62 76 21.

Tours: July 14, 10am, troupe review and military parade, Place Jean-Jaurès; 3.30pm, concert (dancing possible), Jardin de Prébendes; 11pm, fireworks, Lac de la Basse-Guérinière. Further details: 47 21 65 47.

• If dialling from the UK, use the code 010 33.

SUSAN BELL

The French, indulgent to a fault, are now the great dog-lovers. David Sinclair reports



A dog's life: for the French family dog life has never been better. Most hotels quote a rate for pets and many restaurants provide a bowl of water

## A nation barking up the right tree

THE TIMES  
PASSPORT TO  
**FRANCE**

THE British, as everybody knows, like to present themselves as a nation of dog-lovers, but these days, frankly, they can't cock a leg at their neighbours in France. For the French, the dog continues to enjoy for the most part the status that Britain used to accord it when I was a boy, a position since sharply downgraded as a result of what appears to be a new-found obsession with hygiene.

Whereas in Britain it is becoming increasingly difficult, for instance, to find hotels that accept dogs, French establishments, required to display the tariff in every room, almost always include a rate for pets. Restaurants, all but perhaps the most pretentious, not only accept dogs readily but often positively encourage them by providing bowls of water, if not food.

One homely *auberge* I know welcomes man's best friend with a mat to put under the nether regions on the cool tiled floor. In another place I have seen a dog sitting at table with a paper napkin in front of it to receive tasty morsels from adoring owners' plates.

Perhaps the most extreme example was provided by a middle-aged couple who passed an entire meal in taking turns to feed and converse with the poodle that sat between them, without addressing a word to each other.

In recent years, food shops have made a determined effort to keep dogs out, but even so it is not uncommon to find a hypermarket trolley containing a

peke, a dachshund or a Yorkshire terrier in the little wire seat normally occupied by children. No doubt conscientious owners like their pets to make their own choices from the enormous range of gourmet dog food on display in such places. The people take eating very seriously. Why not their dogs?

There is, moreover, little chance of paying any

**"The smaller the living space, the larger the breed or the greater the numbers"**

My neighbours in the little pink house across the Place Anatole France (Homme de Lettres) have for years kept a medium-sized mongrel that spends its days sunbathing on their balcony, occasionally leaping up and sticking its head through the balcony to bark furiously at passers-by it does not recognise. Since last week it has had a companion, which appears

to be an English setter puppy and is quickly learning when a bit of barking is called for. It must not be thought, however, that in their desire to keep dogs the French abandon that discriminatory sense for which they are famous.

For example, one man I know, a retired agriculteur not noted for great wealth, went to the trouble and expense of visiting Crufts to become the owner of a pedigree Dalmatian. There is, however, an unpleasant side to this otherwise harmless adoration of the dog. Although it is nice that the French should have retained the engaging habit of presenting visiting cards, it is a matter of regret that their dogs seem follow suit in the only way they know how.

In this little corner of the Mediterranean South West, the sun shines for an average of 300 days a year and the weather is mild.

August temperature can exceed 35C. Yet the most practical summer foot-wear is not espadrilles but wellington boots. At the very least, sensible shoes are sensibly worn to protect against the offensive adhesions that turn the village into a malodorous minefield.

The French may love to keep dogs, but what they are not keen on, in these parts at least, is the sort of long-solitary walks so many British dog-owners seem to enjoy. The nearest car park is the favourite spot for formal exercise, which consists mainly of smoking a cigarette while chatting to neighbours and watching the dog doing its business in the shade of the parked vehicles. Consequently, getting into your car is one of the most hazardous undertakings of the day.

Most often, the village dogs are simply released at regular intervals into the largely traffic-free streets, and summoned home again by a fascinating range of roars and whistles, which are particularly appealing late at night.

People do occasionally complain about the mess, and things are now being done about it. In the nearby city of Perpignan, I have noticed patrols on motorised pooper-scoopers, while in Paris new laws are being employed against fouling. Generally, however, the renowned Gallic insouciance prevails.

I do wonder, though, whether the only too obvious traces of the dog have anything to do with the fact that, among a nation not much given to gross language, the favourite swear-word is *merde!*

## Properties of the week

**FRANCE**

WHAT YOU CAN GET FOR  
£30,000 TO £35,500



This maison de maître for sale at £30,000 (excluding agency and notary fees), is situated in a small village, about 12 miles from the fortified town of Villefranche, in the Aveyron. A 90-minute drive from the nearest international airport at Toulouse; at least 12 hours from Calais. The property comprises two houses, one renovated, the other to renovate. The house on the left of the picture is simple, but habitable; it has a large kitchen with fireplace, living room, two bedrooms, WC and shower. The adjoining six-roomed house, with wc and attic, for renovation, would be suitable for a chambre d'hôtes or gîte. The UK agent is Sifex, Phoenix House, 86 Fulham High Street, London SW6 (071-384 1200).



The same sort of money — £30,000 (excluding fees) — will buy this substantial stone house in a hamlet between Morlaix and Lannion in Brittany. It is a few miles inland from the spectacular Côte de Granit Rose (pink granite coast) and 30 minutes' drive from the ferry terminal at Roscoff. It was used until recently as a B&B, and has been renovated, but needs some interior redecoration. It has a fully fitted kitchen, a large washroom, WC and lounge on the ground floor. There are two bedrooms and a bathroom on the first floor, and another two bedrooms upstairs. It comes with a garage and lawned rear garden. The UK agent is Normandy and Brittany cottages, 62 Chestnut Road, London, W14 (071-581 4433).



£35,500 (excluding agency fees) — for this traditional colombage (half-timbered) Normandy cottage, with unspoilt views over the Yère valley in the Seine Maritime. The nearest ferry port is Dieppe, about 45 minutes' drive. Built in stone and wood, under a steeply sloping slate roof, the property is in good condition, with full gas central heating. It has a large living/dining room with rustic fireplace, fitted kitchen, bedroom and bathroom on the ground floor. An external staircase leads to a loft suitable for conversion. There is an outbuilding that serves as a guest bedroom, a further small outbuilding, a garage and a quarter of an acre of garden. The UK agent is Northern France Properties, 70 Brewer Street, London, W1 (071-287 4940).

CHERYL TAYLOR

• In Weekend Times tomorrow: Buyer's France — the Haute-Savoie

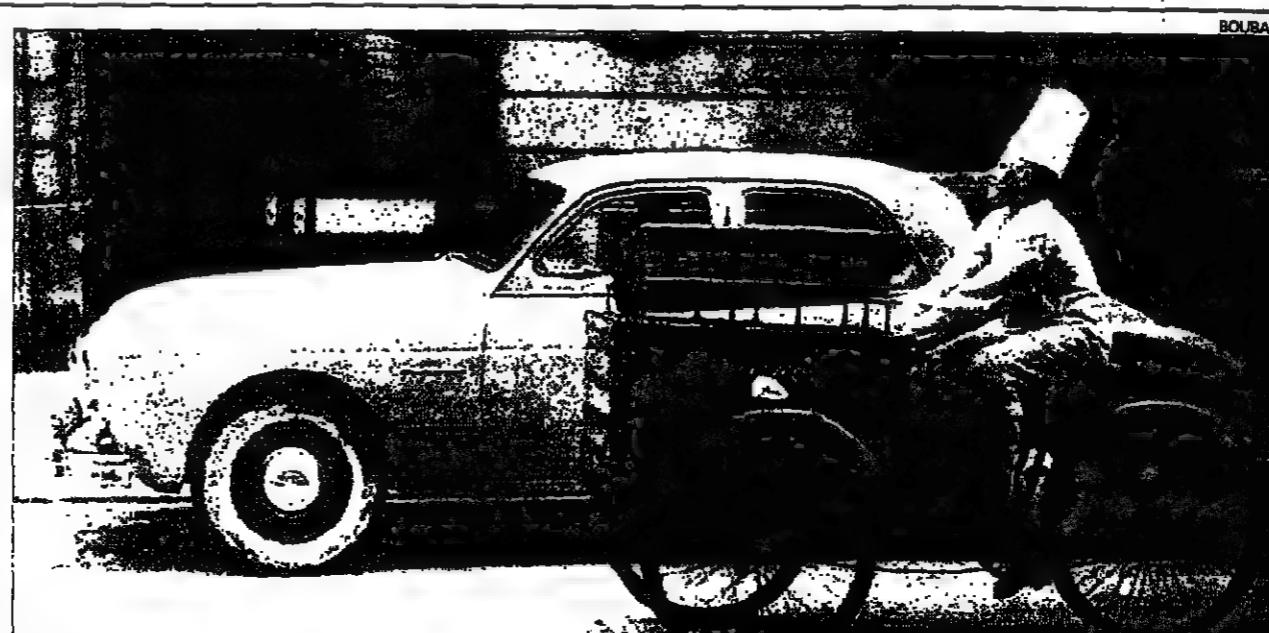
## Not a whiff of Spam

**FRANCE**

### FIRST IMPRESSIONS

For those wartime children whose first impressions date from that time, one hears again and again that note of incredulity, "Britain in 1949". writes Penny Roper-Evans, one of many *Times* readers who responded to a request for reminiscences. "was still a very post-war country. London, after five years of war showed signs of wear and tear, houses were unpainted, fences unmended and the roads and pavements full of holes."

But Paris was alive and well: "The shops were full, the women unbelievably chic, the cafés flourishing. How the city had revived so quickly and so vitally remains a mystery." Her French employers' table was a shock: "Butter appeared in large quantities, so did cream and meat, wonderful salads with various dressings, croissants, plates of different cheeses, pain d'épice at tea-time, coffee at breakfast in a bowl, rich milk chocolate ...



Post-war plenty: an ice-cream vendor in the 16th arrondissement of Paris, 1954, miles from British austerity.

To a hungry 18-year-old who could not remember a non-nationalised world it was incredible, marvellous, a feast."

Others tell tales of encountering their first fresh peach, of the "incredibly un-Spam-like" quality of *pâté de foie gras*, of drinking *vin ordinaire* as if it were lemonade, and feeling their heads "spin with the richness of it all, after Britain".

Keith Waterhouse, then a rising young journalist down from the North, made his first trip to Paris in 1952. "I'd been brought up with a suspicion of all foreigners, you know, lesser breeds. But I got there when we were still plunged into austerity, and found them all jolly and gay — and the moment I saw the place I thought, 'Hello, I'm going to have some more of this!'"

Cartoonist Bill Tidy, rather younger at 17, was only passing through, landing at Beauvais airport on the first leg of an early package holiday to Spain. His upbringing had not made him instinctively Francophile. "All right, I admit it, my mother had brought me up to consider the French a rotten, cowardly,

godless lot who let us down in the war. I lived in a pub, so everything was perfectly simple: people who drank beer were OK, people who drank wine were a flaccid, wet lot."

Armed with this knowledge, he bussed across France, peering warily out of the window.

"The first thing that impressed me was that the Customs officers looked like Foreign Legionnaires. I liked that, and decided they weren't such a bad lot after all. I thought the farms looked very

poor and crummy, now I know they were actually very rich, just different." The difference, like all European differences, continued to provide Mr Tidy with cartoon subjects for years. "Eating horses, all that stuff. Wonderful, wonderful," he said.

For it takes a lot to kill a stereotype. When Professor Marquand went back after National Service in 1954 to hitch-hike from St Malo to the Mediterranean, his companion was actor and playwright Alan Bennett, on his first trip abroad and suspicious of what he might find. "We imagined

Win a gastronomic champagne weekend in Reims by answering three questions in the Times/Verve Claret competition. Runners-up win a bottle of Yellow Label champagne. See Weekend Times

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something different and wonderful, but it wasn't quite so. Actually, my main memory is that I wore steel-rimmed glasses because I was just out of the army, so people thought I was German and spat at me in the street."

The food, however, remains a glowingly fond memory for both. Back at Oxford, as Professor Marquand says, dinners were still "revolting, unspeakably vile". A matter, I suppose, of different nationalities.

LIBBY PURVES

Apple

LIFE &amp; TIMES FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

**One man's poison**

VICTORIAN country parsons might have known of the poisonous nature of yew trees in the churchyard from reading Virgil, Caesar, and Livy; now they probably learn the hard way when sheep grazing the graveyard grass eat yew clippings and die from gastrointestinal inflammation.

The poisonous toxins from the European yew tree, *Taxus baccata*, have only slight affinity with the anti-cancer drug Taxol prepared from the bark of the Pacific yew, *Taxus brevifolia*. The rare, slow-growing Pacific yew is under threat because, *The Lancet* reports, two to three thousand trees would be required to produce:



only 2lb of the drug Taxol. Even though highly toxic, Taxol has been used successfully in combination with other drugs to treat advanced ovarian cancer, melanoma, as well as some lung tumours and those of the gastrointestinal system. The latest research has demonstrated a good response to Taxol treatment in advanced cases of cancer of the breast. The drug is in very short supply but the experimental work will stimulate a search for similar chemicals from other trees, perhaps including *Taxus baccata*, so that the trees planned for English bowmen may yet appear bottled on the chemist's shelves.

Taxol may prove to be a valuable ingredient in combined chemotherapy, which would be useful in selected cases, but it is unlikely ever to be a panacea.

**Unhappy returns**

THE circumstances of Richard Hughes's death from malaria — he was 57 and returning from his honeymoon in Kenya — have given publicity to a disease which affects hundreds of Britons every year, and kills a score or so.

Contrary to reports, there is no magic inoculation which will stop a traveller catching malaria. Vaccination is still at an experimental stage. Prophylaxis depends on the tedious routine of taking tablets: the name of the tablet depending on where the person is going and the type of malaria likely to be encountered.

There are four types of malarial parasite. The most dreaded, and it is one which killed Mr Hughes, is *Plasmodium falciparum*, which causes malignant tertian malaria with the potentially fatal complication of cerebral malaria. Cerebral malaria accounts for 80 per cent of dead from malaria.

Prevention is achieved by both taking pills and avoiding being bitten by the anopheline mosquito — the use of mosquito nets and wearing long trousers after dark, for example. These precautions were as available to the 19th-century trader as they are to the 20th-century holidaymaker, but the latter also has the advantage of air-conditioning and an efficient insect repellent: diethyl toluamide (Dettol) particularly important in the evenings or if resting in a shady spot.

Travellers should seek expert advice about recommended drugs. Whatever regimen is ordered, it must be started a week before setting off and taken for at least four weeks, preferably five to eight weeks, after

returning. Two drugs are often used in combination to help some of the problems caused by drug resistance in the malarial parasite. Malaria is particularly dangerous to pregnant women, as no prophylactic regimen is effective. The only drugs they should take are paludrine and chloroquine.

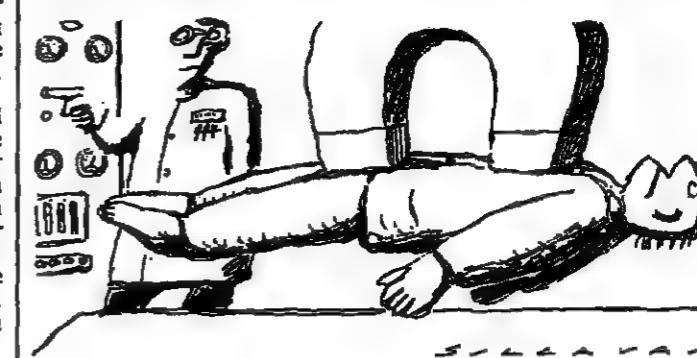
Others with a lower resistance, including patients who have had a spleen removed, would be well advised to holiday in malaria-free countries. Former residents of tropical countries should never forget that any acquired resistance to malaria is soon lost after they return to temperate zones.

One of the first rules of prevention is to disregard the advice of old Africa hands, who often exaggerate the side effects of the preventive drugs. Expatiates for instance, fear paludrine as much as any army recruit worried about bromide in the tea, and for the same reason: it is a total myth, although paludrine can cause mouth ulcers.

No preventive drugs are 100 per cent certain, and all have disadvantages. Chloroquine can cause rashes, dizziness, blurred vision and — in large or often-repeated doses — retinal damage. Maloprim occasionally destroys the bone marrow; Sanisidar can cause a severe skin reaction; Lariam is unsuitable for those on beta-blockers and can cause a mental breakdown in psychiatric cases. But the side effects are as nothing compared with the danger of malaria, symptoms of which may sometimes not appear until a year after a traveller has returned.

**Grey area of politics**

TWENTY years ago, members of the House of Commons marvelled at the complexion of Mark Woodruff, the Conservative member for the Isle of Wight, as it turned increasingly slate grey. Only a few of those present would have realised that he was suffering from haemochromatosis, an inborn error of iron metabolism which results in high blood and tissue levels of iron and is potentially fatal. Nor would many have realised how tired Mr Woodruff must have felt, and, therefore, what an effort he must have made as he put the Tory case so forcibly from his seat on the front bench below the gangway.

**Animal testing could save lives like mine**

**Andrew Blake has placed himself on the front line in the argument over medical experiments.**  
Liz Gill reports

**A**ndrew Blake is the founder of a group that supports experiments on animals, and is an animal lover. He says the two are not incompatible. He was brought up on a farm and worked there until the degenerative wasting disease Friedreich's Ataxia confined him to a wheelchair; he is a member of the RSPCA, and the owner of a pet white mouse that he calls Hope.

The name is significant because Mr Blake believes that it is only through such creatures that a cure for his and other diseases will be found, which is why he founded Seriously Ill for Medical Research (SIMR). Its aim, he says, is to promote research into crippling, debilitating and progressive diseases and to support the humane use of animals in that research.

"It is the voice of the people who actually have the highest stakes at risk their lives. We are the ones who would lose if animal experiments were halted," he says.

"Many of the doctors who give us hope for the future are living under siege conditions, in constant fear of attack by activists. The artillery is aimed at researchers, but it is the seriously ill who suffer most casualties. Every time a researcher is delayed or a laboratory raided, it threatens a breakthrough."

Animal rights campaigners argue that experiments are unnecessary, unreliable and unethical. They believe man has no right to exploit another creature's suffering for his own ends. Mr Blake's answer is to point to the list of achievements made possible in this way: vaccines, insulin, blood transfusion, modern anaesthetics and improved surgical techniques, treatment of neurological disorders (including Parkinson's and epilepsy) and mental illnesses, medicines for asthma, ulcers, viral infections, high blood pressure, cancer drugs, the contraceptive pill, procedures such as hip replacements, organ transplants, renal dialysis and intensive care for premature babies.

The argument that animals are no use in human research is quite clearly wrong: animals have played an important part in most major discoveries. And they are still needed for all those conditions we cannot cure and often cannot even treat," Mr Blake says.

"There have been enormous advances in computer technology and cell cultures but you cannot reproduce a complex life system in a test tube. I know with my own disorder that the mice are essential. They form the link between the test tube and the patient."

"When people have ethical objections I say 'Fine, if a human is not a higher animal then don't take the drugs. Nobody is forcing you to.' But virtually all medical treatments, everything you get on a doctor's prescription, stuff you buy over the counter in a chemist's, has been tested on animals. People don't usually refuse. They are taking them for their own benefit."

Mr Blake adds that humans are not the sole beneficiaries. Animal research, he says, has been important to the development of veterinary science: a third of veterinary medicines, for instance, are the same as those used for humans. "People often think supporters of animal research do not care for animals. This could not be more



Of mice and men: Andrew Blake and his pet white mouse, the appropriately named Hope

wrong. Being aware of the necessity for research does not weaken our moral responsibility for the welfare of all animals," Mr Blake says. "And many sufferers of serious illness treasure the company of animals, probably more than those of us do."

"But there is a difference between welfare and rights. Urbanisation has meant that many of us have become very distant from animals and a lot of people consider that the mice are essential. They form the link between the test tube and the patient."

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"People often think supporters of animal research do not care for animals. This could not be more

agonising human suffering, too. I know that at times I have been in a hospital bed and wished to die to get out of pain."

Friedreich's Ataxia is an extremely rare inherited disease affecting about two people in 100,000. Until Mr Blake was affected, when he was aged 11, he had had a normal boyhood; after he got the degenerative disease, "my future could be read from medical textbooks, a wheelchair followed by an early grave."

The disease attacks the central nervous system progressively: the brain stays healthy but is trapped in an increasingly crippled body. At 29, Mr Blake has been in a wheelchair for 12 years and now lives in a specially adapted flat near Dunstable, Bedfordshire, where he can work with painful slowness at the computer technology which enables him to produce the organisation's quarterly newsletter and campaign material.

"The issue is one in which feelings run high, and he has already received hate mail. 'One said, 'I hope you rot in a wheelchair.' At first I made me wonder if I was doing the right thing, but now I have learned to laugh at it.'

The group has 80 members so far: most are either seriously ill

(many with multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy or arthritis) or have sick friends and relatives. The aim, he says, is to raise consciousness among the public and to publicise the facts. Members are encouraged to write letters and articles, talk to the media, form local support groups and address schools.

Mr Blake denies that they are twisting any emotional screws. "If anyone is doing that, it is the animal rights activists with their propaganda pictures of people's pets." He claims that eight out of ten animal experiments are on rats and mice rather than cats or dogs.

The long term outlook in the battle against Friedreich's Ataxia is promising. Scientists hope to identify the gene that causes it and ultimately to cure it via a corrective gene. Provided, Mr Blake says, research can continue.

"It is probably too late for a breakthrough to save me, but it is not just myself I'm fighting for. It's for future generations who will rely on present-day research to lay the foundations. My goal would be that no child should have to be in a wheelchair."

The group has 80 members so far: most are either seriously ill

Dilemma for parents and doctors when a child fails to grow

**Deaths put the little people in focus**

Tina Webb, the administrator of the Restricted Growth Association, recalls seeing two very small women in a Bejam store taking turns to hold each other up so that they could see into the freezers.

The image may seem funny, even endearing, which is perhaps why we have tended to patronise "little people". The reality of being very short is, of course, neither funny nor endearing. It can be a source of profound, sometimes unbearable, pain. Two years ago the actor David Rapaport, who starred in the film *Time Bandits* and the television series *LA Law*, shot himself in a Hollywood park. He was aged 38 and 3ft 11in tall.

There are all kinds of problems — jobs, activities, clothes — but the biggest barriers are social," Mrs Webb says. "The attitude is often: small people, small minds."

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that where treatment was available parents and children should have seized the chance, and it is doubly cruel that such treatment may now turn out to have been lethal.

Earlier this week it was announced that six families whose children have died in their twenties and thirties from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human form of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

After being injected with human growth hormone, are to sue the government for compensation. The hormone, extracted from the pituitaries of cadavers, was given to 1,900 children in the UK between 1959 and 1985. Seven have died and an eighth has developed the dementia typical of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. The rest must live with an unpredictable time bomb.

The daughter of Tam Fry, the chairman of the Child Growth Foundation, was given the treatment after her pituitary failed at the age of three. She has no symptoms of Creutzfeldt-Jakob and as a young adult she will now make her own decision about any litigation, for example, to seek compensation for suffering.

"It is always there in your mind but you have to accept it as something you cannot do anything about," her father says. "It could be that not one more person dies but there could be ten next year."

Children can fail to grow for a variety of reasons they may have a physical condition, such as a heart, kidney or digestive disease; girls may have Turner's syndrome, in which a missing sex chromosome affects development; children may suffer from achondroplasia, a genetic bone disorder that produces the short limbs but normal trunk of the "crouch dwarf"; they may never produce growth hormone or lose the ability to do so after treatment for cancer, surgery or trauma, physical or emotional.

Moreover, the definition of abnormal growth is not a precise one. Medical charts would put the normal height range for an adult man between 5ft 3in and 6ft 1in, and for an adult woman between 4ft 11in and 5ft 8in. This, Mr Fry says, puts 6 per cent of the population — 3 per cent at each end of the scale — outside the norm. Yet the sexes fare differently.

"We would not think of a 6ft 4in man as having a problem," Mr Fry says. "Small men have traditionally over-compensated, sometimes with good, sometimes bad results. Small women do not suffer so harshly. For women being too tall is more likely to be the problem."

A more appropriate yardstick is parental height. Dr Jerry Wales, a senior lecturer in paediatric endocrinology at the University of Sheffield Children's Hospital, which specialises in the medical and surgical treatment of growth problems, says: "If you have 6ft parents and the child is going to end up 4ft 8in there is obviously something wrong."

"Being very short can cause immense distress, milder forms can mean very little to some people, whereas others are suicidal. There is no absolute cut-off point"

interest in its use with infertile women and, perhaps most dramatically, its effects on the ageing process. Experiments in the United States suggest it may give some elderly people renewed vitality. Young adults in this country who finish treatment for growth may opt to continue with a lower dosage to combat lethargy or weight gain.

The jury is still out on the other big question of whether giving it to normal youngsters can make them grow beyond their natural potential. There are trials using volunteers, small children of small parents who feel lack of height disadvantaged them and who want their offspring to be taller. But Dr Wales feels there have not been enough trials yet and he says, "There also seems to be a law of diminishing returns: you have to give larger and larger doses to produce little effect. It may simply be that all you are doing is speeding up the process of growth, not extending it."

Where hormone treatment is not effective or appropriate, the only real alternative is limb lengthening, which can add an extra 12 inches over a couple of years. The technique involves breaking a bone and inserting a device that moves the fracture apart. New bone then fills in the gap. At the moment it is the only option for achondroplasia.

Most growth disorders should be noticeable by the age of three, Mr Fry says, but the average age of diagnosis is eight. His daughter was seven before she began the treatment that brought her up to just under 5ft 2in — 13 inches taller than she would have been — and then only after a school nurse read an article on the subject.

"The problem was that she was not ill. Doctors saw a perfectly healthy child, who was like a doll," Mr Fry says. He believes there should be a national growth surveillance policy, so that children are measured routinely from birth throughout childhood. Meanwhile, parents can check their child's pattern against average growth charts (available from GPs and health centres). "If your child's growth veers away from the normal line it is a very graphic illustration that something is wrong," Mr Fry believes.

Children's growth rates vary widely at different ages, decreasing through infancy and later childhood and then putting on a spurt at adolescence. Dr Wales says that any child, not just those coming up to or finishing puberty, who is growing less than four centimetres (1½ in) a year may have a problem.

OLIVIA JAMES



Growing pains: Alice's famous problem of size in Wonderland

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LIFE &amp; TIMES FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

MOTORING 7

## How to loosen tight corners

**Kevin Eason** learns the driving skills that have saved some important lives

The warning came like one of the gentle admonishments we used to get from Valerie Singleton in *Blue Peter* long ago: "Now, this could be dangerous, but we have an expert with us. So do not try this at home."

As I fired my Mercedes up to 30mph in reverse before throwing it into a 180 degree turn, Guido Moch had a similar message.

Herr Moch is an expert in teaching drivers to deal safely with potential danger. When world leaders buy their Mercedes-Benz limousines — and Mercedes is the biggest supplier in the world of cars for VIPs — they send their chauffeurs to him.

The attempted kidnap of the Princess Royal in the Mall in 1974, as well as the more recent kidnap and murder in the United States of Sidney Reso, the president of Exxon's international operations, only underline the fact that public figures are targets.

However, the first person looking down the barrel of a kidnapper's gun could be the VIP's chauffeur, and whether a kidnap is prevented could depend on how well he or she can drive out of trouble.

Running into a maddock leaves only way out: the way you came in. This is why Herr Moch and his instructors had me screaming along in reverse, flipping the wheel a complete turn while banging the

automatic gearbox into drive to complete a 180 degree turn before roaring away again.

This is a specialist technique which ordinary drivers will probably never need, although these days you might see it practised enthusiastically on a bad Saturday night on a suburban council estate.

The difference between my turn and a similar manoeuvre by a teenage joyrider is that Herr Moch's techniques are designed to be safe, and to help cultivate habits which ultimately give the driver more control over the car. Plenty of people sit at the wheel of a car believing they drive well.

The surveys show that nobody admits to being hopeless at the wheel; in fact, about 90 per cent of motorists questioned claim to have mastered the art of driving.

But how many really understand the physics of how a tone of moving metal reacts, particularly at speed? What happens when the car starts to slide into a potentially fatal skid, and how do you get out of it?

Providing the answers to those questions would almost certainly be beyond all but a handful of this country's 20 million drivers.

Plenty might have a stab at the brakes and hope for the best, yet grabbing for the anchors can sometimes be the worst thing to do. Herr Moch says that anticipation



Faster than a speeding bullet: driving expert Guido Moch displays the art of life-and-death driving on the Mercedes test track

and understanding are the keys to good driving: seeing what is going on in plenty of time and having control of the car is vital.

"When you understand the movement of the car when braking, it could be the difference between having an accident or getting through alive," he says. "If you understand where the centre of gravity of the car is moving and when to brake, you have a chance of controlling the car."

But it takes a second to react to situations, and a second to apply the brakes, and at high speed you have already moved a considerable distance before the brakes actually start to work."

To prove the point, Herr Moch put me through a series of rigorous exercises to improve my car control.

The first was to drive on simulated ice, specially laid at the Lucas Automotive test centre near Coventry, in the West Midlands, and a surface so slippery it could have been a sheet of glass.

Hitting the brakes at 30mph then steering through two corners looked easy when Herr Moch did it. It took me several attempts and some thoughtful cadence braking — pushing the brake pedal gently at intervals — to make it.

Then on to the snake, a tight course of weaving bends requiring skilful steering, canny braking and

a sure feel of the shifting centre of gravity of the car.

Finally, a test of nerve as much as skill. Imagine driving along a straight, long road at 70mph when a tractor pulls out of a side road. There is a car coming in the opposite direction and not enough time to brake. What do you do?

The answer is to flatten the throttle to the floor and have enough confidence and skill to guide the car through a swift turn around the tractor and back to the left side of the road.

Easy? Not when the turn ends at about 95mph.

That is a manoeuvre that any driver might have to perform,

according to Herr Moch, and was a lesson well learned for me.

Not everyone can take lessons from Herr Moch, but most can apply the Moch principles: care and control are the watchwords and for those who want to make driving a skill instead of simply bumbling from A to B.

To learn some of those skills, enrol on a driver training course. There are many, particularly at local race tracks, and apart from gaining car control, it is a lot of fun.

Driving in difficult circumstances will not make you into Nigel Mansell or land you a job as President Bush's chauffeur. But it might get you home safely.

### ROADWISE

## Lada lower

LADA is holding down prices to combat the recession. Its new Samara 1.3L saloon will come into the showrooms at £4,295, making it one of the cheapest new cars on the market. In addition, some hatchback models will be reduced by 15 per cent. A 1.3-litre hatchback will be available at £4,995. Delivery, number plates and six months' road tax cost an extra £375 at all dealers.

### Fuelish

TODAY, hundreds of motorists will make a blunder at the pumps that will cost them dearly. The RAC, for one, says it makes 12,000 calls every year to motorists who have put the wrong fuel in their tanks such as filling a diesel car with petrol. Draining petrol from a diesel car can cost £60, but putting unleaded petrol into a car with a catalytic converter will cost between £250 and £500 to replace the "cat" if the engine has been started.

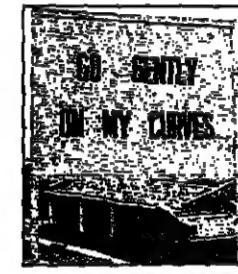
### Four fours

BMW has introduced new four-wheel drive models to Britain for the first time. The electronically controlled power distribution system offers BMW drivers extra grip and stability automatically.

The cars are all powered by the 2.5-litre 16v, six-cylinder engine and cost £25,500 for the 525iX saloon and £27,350 for the 525iX Touring estate. Two special equipment versions are also available.

### Soft shoulder

THERE can be no nicer way to put it than on this road sign spotted in India by Alison Roberts, a reporter



for *The Times*. Somehow the persuasive "Go gently on my curves" seems so much more likely to achieve the objective of making motorists drive carefully than our more direct instructions to mind the bends.



Nippy winner: the Citroen ZX Aura Turbo Diesel

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## Expectation over retirement age

**Barber v Thames Television plc**

Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Stauthon [Judgment April 29]

Where certain employees had a variety of expectations as to their retirement ages before they received a letter from their employer stating that it was proposed to reduce the retirement ages of all with a retirement age over 60 from 64 to 60 in progressive stages, it was permissible to have regard to the letter in determining whether there was a group of employees with a "normal retiring age" for the purposes of section 64(1)(b) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing an appeal by the employer, Thames Television plc, from the Employment Appeal Tribunal's [770 EAT 1991, 8-11991] ICR 255] which had allowed an appeal by the employee, Keith Barber, from a decision of a London Industrial tribunal.

The appeal tribunal had held that the industrial tribunal had erred in concluding that by reason of section 64(1)(b) it had no jurisdiction to hear a complaint by Mr Barber under section 54 that he had been unfairly dismissed by Thames Television.

Section 64(1) provides: "Section 54 does not apply to the dismissal of an employee ... if the employee ... (ii) attained the following age on or before the effective date of termination, that is to say — (i) if in the undertaking in which he is employed there was a normal retiring age for an employee holding the position which he held ... that normal retiring age; and (ii) in any other case the age of 65."

## Bankruptcy demand not an 'action'

**In re a Debtor (No 88 of 1991)**

Before Sir Donald Nicholls, Vice-Chancellor [Judgment June 25]

A statutory demand in bankruptcy proceedings was not an "action" within section 69 of the Solicitors Act 1974.

Accordingly, such a demand could validly be made within one month of an unpaid bill having been presented.

Sir Donald Nicholls, Vice-Chancellor, so held in a reserved judgment allowing the appeal of Marshalls Godalming, a firm of solicitors, against the order of January 28, 1992 of District Judge Harris who sitting in Liverpool County Court set aside a statutory demand issued by Marshalls against the debtor and dismissed a bankruptcy petition founded on that demand.

Mr Marc Britain for the solicitors: Miss Angharad Start for the debtor.

**THE VICE-CHANCELLOR** said that the debtor had obtained legal advice from the solicitors and on July 31 they had rendered their bill.

They did not receive payment and consequently served a statutory demand dated August 15, 1991 on the debtor on August 21. When no response was forthcoming from the debtor they issued a bankruptcy petition based on the demand on September.

Miss Start argued that the demand should be set aside because it fell foul of section 69(1) of the 1974 Act. That section provided: "... no action shall be brought to recover any costs due to a solicitor before the expiration of one month from the date on which a bill of those costs is delivered...". She submitted that service of a statutory demand constituted the bringing of an action within the meaning of

section 69. His Lordship disagreed. The phrase "no action shall be brought" was referring to a legal process and used lawyers' language.

Traditionally an "action" was the name given to the legal process initiated by issue of a writ of summons. In the context of section 69 it would include other forms of civil proceedings, for example, an originating summons.

But "action" was not wide enough to embrace a non-legal process such as a statutory demand.

A statutory demand was one of the statutorily prescribed prerequisites to obtaining remedies afforded to creditors by a bankruptcy order. The demand was not issued by a court.

It did have legal consequences for a debtor and it was for that reason that the legislation provided a court process which debtors could invoke in order to have the demand set aside.

Solicitors: Marshalls, Godalming; Brown Turner Compton Carr & Co, Southport.

**Actuaries are demanding a greater role in policy making**

Members of the actuarial profession have realised that in the interests of both the public and their own status, the time has come to throw off modesty and assert themselves publicly to government, to other professions and to the City.

Actuaries are the real technicians of the financial services industry. Although their traditional skills lie in the area of pensions, they are increasingly moving into "non-life" work. Because their mathematical expertise enables them to calculate statistical probabilities, they can as accurately predict the likelihood of an environmental disaster, such as the Exxon Valdez or a Piper Alpha, as the age of death of a pipe-smoking civil servant.

The problem has been that these talents have often been overlooked. The Lloyd's market could have made much better use of actuaries than it did. While loss-making syndicates were looking aghast at disaster after disaster, the actuaries were saying they could have told them so, if only the actuaries had been asked.

Similarly with the Maxwell affair. Their deep knowledge of the pension industry led actuaries to understand exactly how pension money could be stolen by a determined company boss. But they never alerted anyone to the dangers because, with their natural reserve, they did not see it as their job to do so.

Now they are more confident about making their voices heard. They are saying the

time has come for insurance organisations, the government and the public to benefit from their skills and insights.

The result is that at the Institute of Actuaries there is an unprecedented buzz of excitement. As an institution with fewer than 3,000 "fellows", it has found it hard to

enough political muscle in the past. However, it sees the recent financial catastrophes as an opportunity to wade into public debate. As Simon Martin, a tutor with the institute, comments: "What recent events have done is bring home to us that there are real people out there being affected by what we do and that our calculations are not just an academic exercise".

Complementing this new look, more dynamic institute, the actuaries have embarked on an important modernisation programme of training methods and qualifications. In the past there have been accusations that too many students, mostly bright mathematics graduates, have dropped out before qualifying or have failed the examinations. The time has come for actuaries to stand up and be counted.

EDWARD FENNELL

## Qualified Actuaries

The Government Actuary's Department is looking for up to three qualified actuaries with consulting skills and experience in the areas of Life Insurance or Pensions who are considering a career move.

You would be working as part of a small professional team with regular client contact. Key issues to be tackled include the implementation of EC Directives designed to create a single market in insurance from 1993 and the review of pensions in the light of the Maxwell affair.

Please quote ref: B/93/1662.



GOVERNMENT ACTUARY'S DEPARTMENT  
An equal opportunity employer

as defined in section 153(1), as a particular employer had been referred to as "the group" to which that particular employee belonged.

Mr Barber was a senior sound supervisor and the industrial tribunal found as a fact, which had not been subsequently challenged, that there were other senior supervisors of equal status.

The question was whether it was permissible to treat all senior supervisors whose compulsory retirement age was as a result of Thames' letter, 64 between November 1988 and November 1989, as a group different from those senior supervisors whose retirement age was 60 because they had entered the employment after January 1, 1978.

The appeal tribunal had held that it was not, on the ground that all senior supervisors formed one group because their "position" was the same in respect of the compulsory retirement age and that the compulsory retirement age was a result of the letter.

Mr Barber claimed that his contractual retirement age was 65 and that had never been varied so as to reduce it to 64.

Immediately before October 26, 1987, all men who had entered the employment of Thames after January 1, 1978, a multiplicity of special treatment, such as there was a variety of expectations regarding retiring age and therefore no normal retiring age within section 64(1).

On October 26, 1987 Thames sent a letter notifying changes of policy to Mr Barber and 480 other employees who would be affected by them.

One such change was a proposal for the progressive reduction of retirement ages of all those with a retirement age over 60, until from November 1, 1992 all employees whenever recruited would have a retirement age of 60.

The effect so far as concerned Mr Barber was that for the year from November 1, 1988 to November 1, 1989, 64 became the retirement age.

In the jurisdiction which had developed under section 64, persons who held the same "position" that

where the employer had promulgated a new policy which it was going to apply in dealing with its employees in place of a previous policy, it was necessary only to consider the new policy as promulgated.

It was inconsistent with Hughes to rely on the circumstances by which it came about that those who had entered Thames' employment before January 1, 1978 had different terms and conditions of employment from those who had entered the employment after that date.

However, it was relevant to have in mind the terms and conditions including ones as to retirement, which certain employees, including Mr Barber, had as the basis for their expectations as a result of Thames' letter.

Mr Barber's submission that the letter should be disregarded should be rejected.

The appeal tribunal erred in failing to take account of the expectations of Mr Barber and other supervisors as a result of the receipt of the letter.

There were in truth two relevant groups of senior supervisors, and the normal retirement for Mr Barber's group by the time he attained the age of 64 was 64.

Mr Barber was therefore precluded by section 64(1)(b) from making his complaint to the industrial tribunal.

Before the appeal tribunal a late application was made to contend that the retirement age for all senior supervisors was truly 60, but it had not been sought to reopen that point before their Lordships.

Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Stauthon delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: J D Freeman & Co; Brian Thompson & Partners.

itors: Miss Angharad Start for the debtor.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that the debtor had obtained legal advice from the solicitors and on July 31 they had rendered their bill.

They did not receive payment and consequently served a statutory demand dated August 15, 1991 on the debtor on August 21. When no response was forthcoming from the debtor they issued a bankruptcy petition based on the demand on September.

Miss Start argued that the demand should be set aside because it fell foul of section 69(1) of the 1974 Act. That section provided: "... no action shall be brought to recover any costs due to a solicitor before the expiration of one month from the date on which a bill of those costs is delivered...". She submitted that service of a statutory demand constituted the bringing of an action within the meaning of

section 69. His Lordship disagreed. The phrase "no action shall be brought" was referring to a legal process and used lawyers' language.

Traditionally an "action" was the name given to the legal process initiated by issue of a writ of summons. In the context of section 69 it would include other forms of civil proceedings, for example, an originating summons.

But "action" was not wide enough to embrace a non-legal process such as a statutory demand.

A statutory demand was one of the statutorily prescribed prerequisites to obtaining remedies afforded to creditors by a bankruptcy order. The demand was not issued by a court.

It did have legal consequences for a debtor and it was for that reason that the legislation provided a court process which debtors could invoke in order to have the demand set aside.

Solicitors: Marshalls, Godalming; Brown Turner Compton Carr & Co, Southport.

## ACTUARIES



learning materials, and is introducing a fresh approach to exams. The first of the new generation of actuaries will emerge from the revamped system in 1994.

Whatever the benefits of the new approach in cutting wastage, the actuarial profession will never be large. Even now it is being hit by the recession, although job losses are much smaller proportionally than in comparable occupations. In the medium term prospects are encouraging.

The British insurance pensions industry is likely to benefit from the single European market (an EC-wide

agreement has just been reached in Brussels), and with their new assertiveness, actuaries are likely to move into several new specialist areas. The time has come for actuaries to stand up and be counted.

EDWARD FENNELL

## Withholding money not unfair

**In re Soundcraft Magnetics Ltd. Ex parte Nicholas**

Before Lord Justice Fox, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss [Judgment July 2]

The withholding of money owed to a subsidiary company by a parent company that exercised financial control over it, constituted acts done in the conduct of the subsidiary's affairs for the purposes of section 459 of the Companies Act 1985.

Mr Nicholas in person: Mr Thomas Seymour for the respondents.

LORD JUSTICE FOX said that 75 per cent of the share capital of Soundcraft Magnetics Ltd, was held by Soundcraft Electronics Ltd and 12½ per cent each by the petitioner and Mr Eustace.

Soundcraft Magnetics Ltd was in effect treating the financial affairs of its subsidiary as its own.

It was inconsistent with Hughes to rely on the circumstances by which it came about that those who had entered Thames' employment before January 1, 1978 had different terms and conditions of employment from those who had entered the employment after that date.

It was relevant to have in mind the terms and conditions including ones as to retirement, which certain employees, including Mr Barber, had as the basis for their expectations as a result of Thames' letter.

Mr Barber's submission that the letter should be disregarded should be rejected.

The appeal tribunal erred in failing to take account of the expectations of Mr Barber and other supervisors as a result of the receipt of the letter.

There were in truth two relevant groups of senior supervisors, and the normal retirement for Mr Barber's group by the time he attained the age of 64 was 64.

Mr Barber was therefore precluded by section 64(1)(b) from making his complaint to the industrial tribunal.

Before the appeal tribunal a late application was made to contend that the retirement age for all senior supervisors was truly 60, but it had not been sought to reopen that point before their Lordships.

Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Stauthon delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: J D Freeman & Co; Brian Thompson & Partners.

parent company, Soundcraft Electronics Ltd, and Mr Timothy Eustace.

By section 459 of the 1985 Act the petitioner was entitled to the relief he sought if the court was satisfied that "the company's affairs are being or have been conducted in a manner which is unfairly prejudicial to the interests of some part of the members..."

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As to fairness, the whole problem derived from the severe financial difficulties of Electronics in 1984 and 1985.

There was not enough money to go round. Electronics did not cease to make payments to Magnetics but it retained substantial sums to keep its own creditors at bay.

If Electronics had not held off its creditors it was difficult to see how the company could avoid disaster. Electronics would have collapsed bringing Magnetics down with it. In a desperate financial situation it was using what assets it could lay its hands on to keep the group afloat.

Electronics, when it withheld payments from Magnetics was doing so as part of the general control of the financial affairs of Magnetics.

It excused that general control by deciding how much the company should retain and restricting the company's ability to spend money. When it withheld payments it was conducting the affairs of Magnetics.



